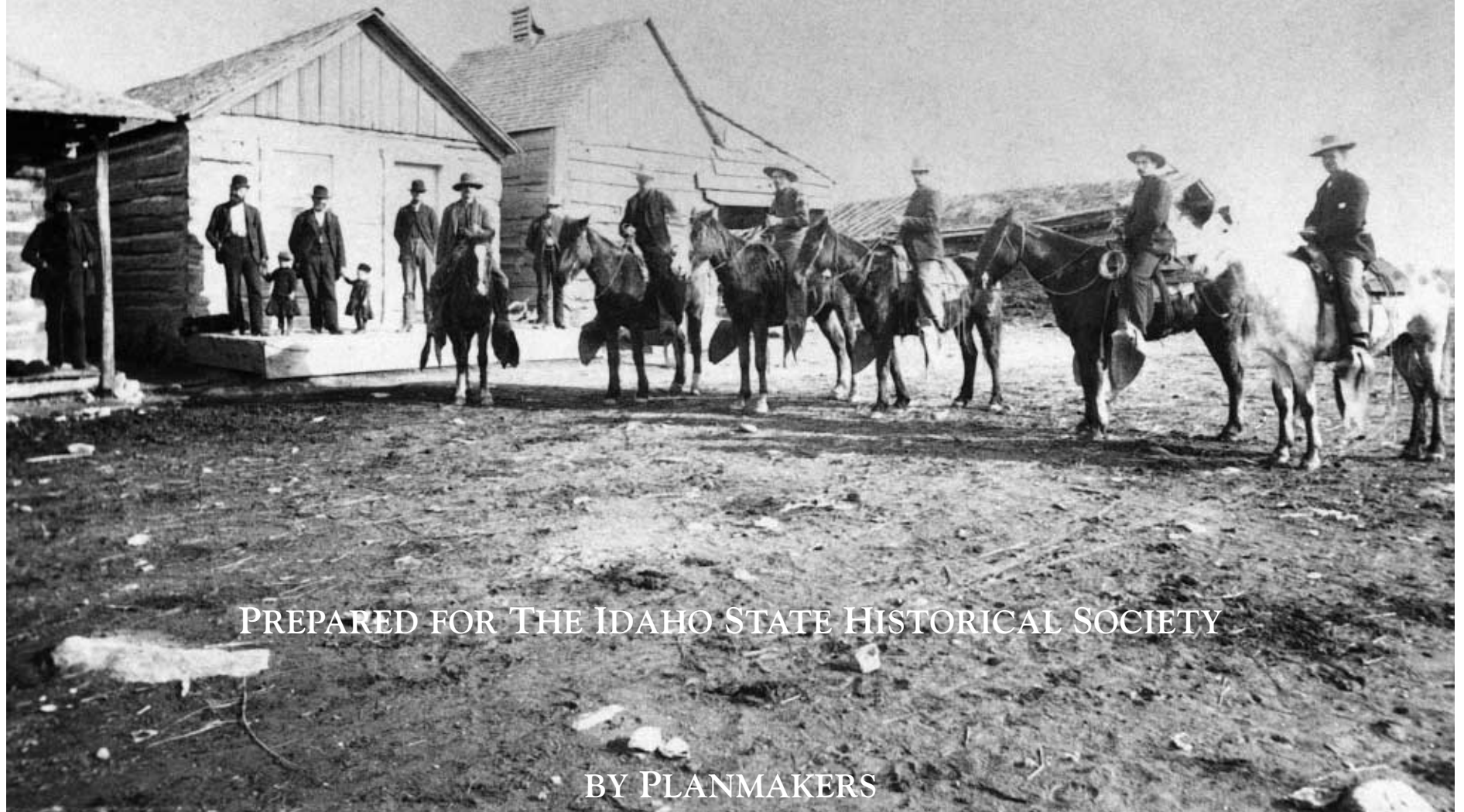


ROCK CREEK STATION AND STRICKER HOMESITE

IDAHO HISTORIC SITE MASTER PLAN



PREPARED FOR THE IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JANUARY 2001

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This master plan outlines a long-range strategy and recommendations for the enhancement of Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite as an educational, informational and cultural facility. The site is owned by the State of Idaho and administered by the Idaho State Historical Society. This plan presents a vision to transform the site into a “state class” destination that serves as an attraction for visitors, students, and families.

The centrally located Idaho rural site, south of Hansen, served as an early transportation center for the Oregon Trail, Overland mail stage route, and the Kelton Freight Road. An oasis in the rocky brush land, it had been a camping site for Native Americans and emigrants. The location became the only commercial activity between Fort Hall and Fort Boise. Interest in the Oregon Trail continues to expand with the recent opening of Oregon Trail interpretive centers at nearby Three Islands State Park and Montpelier.

The Rock Creek Store, built in 1865 on the banks of Rock Creek, is the oldest building in Magic Valley. The log building was the center of the early Rock Creek community. Rock Creek Station at one time included a stage station, a hotel, log buildings, rock cellars, saloon, blacksmith shop, and school. In 1876, Herman Stricker bought the store and homesteaded a ranch. He built a Victorian home nearby in 1900. In 1980 the store and homesite were placed on the National Register of Historic Places and descendants of the Stricker family donated the site to the State of Idaho in 1984.

Rock Creek Station is a significant historic site that calls attention to a specific period of time. Few sites of this early period remain, making it all the more important. Its unique history and shady vistas have the potential to attract visitors and is waiting to be discovered. This plan outlines a strategy for an improved cultural site with upgraded buildings and educational programs. The Stricker House is to be rehabilitated for a visitor center and house museum. Potential activities include hands-on learning experiences and special events.

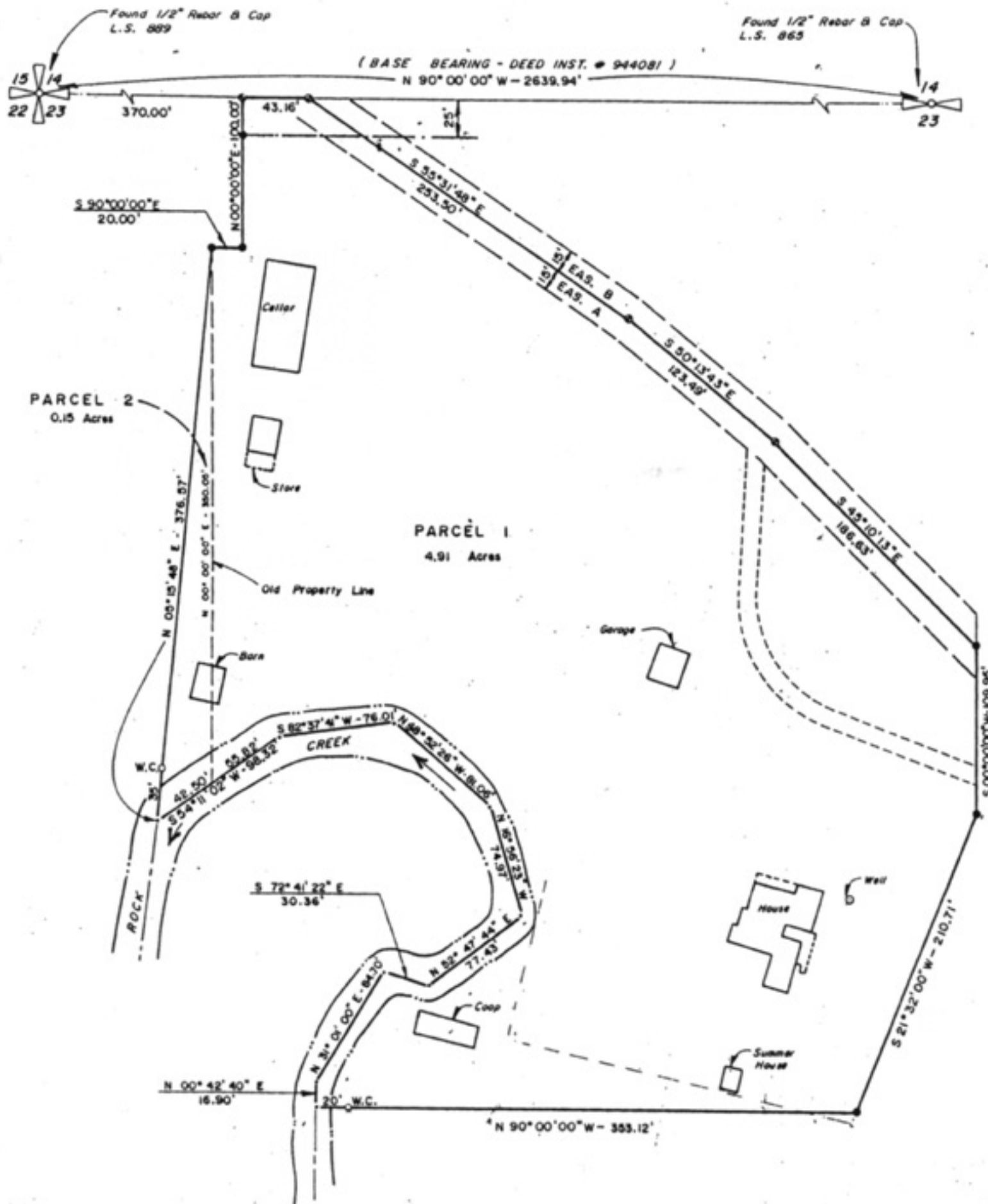
LOCATION

The site is 5 miles south and 1 mile west of Hansen or 5 miles south and 2 miles east of Kimberly. It is in southcentral Idaho and easily accessible, being only 8 miles from Exit 182 on Interstate 84 by way of the Hansen Bridge (S.H. 50). The address is 3715 E. 3200 North Road and is best reached by taking County Road G3 (Rock Creek Road or 3800 East Road) and turning west on 3200 North Road for 1 mile. Travel time from Twin Falls is about 20 minutes.



PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

As illustrated by the survey on page 3, prepared by EHM Engineers in 1988, the many-sided parcel contains 5.05 acres. The parcel begins at a point on the north line of Section 23, 370 feet east, with the boundary between the center of Rock Creek to 3200 North. Road. The property number is 11S18E233000 and is located in NW1/4, NW1/4, Section 23, Township 11 South, Range 18 East, B.M. Twin Falls County, Idaho.



SCALE: 1" = 50'

LOCATED IN

NW⁴ NW⁴, SECTION 23

T. 11 S., R. 18 E., B.M.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IDAHO

1988

L E G E N D

PROPERTY BOUNDARY LINE	—
COUNTY ROAD EASEMENT	---
ACCESS ROAD EASEMENT	- - -
DRIVEWAY	- - - -
CENTERLINE - ROCK CREEK	~~~~~
SET 1/2" x 24" REBAR & CAP	•
SET R.K. NAIL	•
ANGLE POINT IN CREEK (no monument)	..

PRINTED
MAY 30 1995

I, Roger A. Kruger, do hereby certify that this plat is a true and accurate map of the land surveyed under my supervision and direction.

JHM Engineers Inc.
ENGINEERS - PLANNERS - SURVEYORS



SURVEY

for
IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APPROVED	R.A. Kruger
DRAWN	
CHECKED	T.C. Vowser
DATE	10-31-88
SCALE	1" = 50'
PLAT NO.	204-88

HISTORY

Willow-lined Rock Creek has formed a welcome refuge for Native Americans, explorers, and pioneers traveling through southcentral Idaho for centuries. In a high desert area where average yearly rainfall is less than 10 inches, the availability of water and plant life was a natural draw to emigrants and those seeking permanent settlement.

Beginning in 1811, explorers and mountain men followed Native American trails as they trapped in all the drainages of the area, including Rock Creek. By 1840, dwindling beaver populations forced fur traders to a new occupation—guiding emigrants through the area.

In the 1840s, a rush of settlers followed the Oregon Trail to Oregon country. Rock Creek was a popular camping spot along the trail from the outset, and wagon ruts can still be seen at the site. Emigrants typically reached Rock Creek in August when the weather was hot and dry. In the years of heavy travel, draft animals ate all the sparse grass and raised huge clouds of dust. The campground was the first water reached after a trek of almost 20 miles from the Snake River.

Native people were hospitable to travelers in the 1840s, but became less trusting as the number of emigrant wagons multiplied and travelers were more hostile. In one incident in 1851, the leader of an emigrant train ordered a group of Bannocks to vacate their camping spot on Rock Creek. He fired his gun over their heads and chased them on horseback, just to see how fast they could run. The Bannocks returned the next day and shot three members of the emigrant party, killing one man. As Idaho Territory filled with gold seekers and settlers during the 1860s, open conflict broke out in some places. A U.S. Army unit was briefly stationed at Rock Creek during the fall of 1865 to guard the Overland Stage Line against Native Americans. The army camp, known as Camp Reed, was located across the creek to the south. In June 1878 the Bannocks went to war to defend their traditional gathering grounds for camas (a staple in their diet) from white encroachment. A Bannock leader, Buffalo Horn, and a group of his followers passed through Rock Creek in mid-May, shortly before the hostilities started. By the end of the decade most Shoshone and Bannock people had been forcibly removed to a reservation at Fort Hall.



Rock Creek Station became a home station along the Overland Stage Line. (ISHS 69-4.215)

HOLLADAY OVERLAND STAGE LINE

In 1864, Ben Holladay was awarded a contract to deliver mail from Salt Lake City to Walla Walla, Washington, and when his agents built lava-rock stations along the route, a facility was included at Rock Creek. It became a “home station,” where stage drivers and attendants lived while they were off duty and where passengers could buy a meal or a night’s lodging. The original station consisted of a lava-rock building that served as a hotel and barn. A daily stage line, among the best-equipped in the U.S. with its four and six horse hitches, brought a daily sack of mail and newspapers to the inhabitants of Rock Creek. The popular papers of the early days were the *Silver City Avalanche*, *Idaho City World*, *San Francisco Examiner*, and the *Idaho Statesman*. Although the settlement was 100 miles from the railroad in Utah, the residents felt like they had the advantages of modern transportation.

The Holladay stage line used Concord coaches manufactured of wood and braced with iron bands. Each coach was painted red with a black stripe and had a straw-colored chassis. There were side lights on the exterior and large candle lamps for the interior. Leather curtains kept out the environment. Nine passengers could sit on the three interior seats. In 1876, *Idaho Statesman* Traveling Correspondent W.A. Gouler wrote of his journey, July 12, 1876: “The North West Stage Company; carrying the United States mail, Wells Fargo’s express and a large and constantly increasing passenger list. The stage arrived at Rock Creek about eight o’clock,

where an excellent breakfast was awaiting the hungry wayfarers. Charles and Irene Trotter keep the house here, and he and his estimable wife spare no pains in their effort to make this a desirable resting place. The locality and its surroundings are pleasant and attractive. The walls of the parlor are ornamented with photographic views of the Great Shoshone Falls on the Snake River, which are within ten miles of the hotel.”



Posing in front of (left to right), Rock Creek Store, two log buildings, Rock Creek Station and China House. (ISHS 80-13.6)

ROCK CREEK STORE

James Bascom and John Corder built the store at Rock Creek in 1865, the first trading post between Boise and Fort Hall. In 1871 a post office was established in the store, and it also served as a polling place during elections. The store offered more than a traveler could desire on a public highway so far in the interior. Commodore Jackson, who was a stage tender, became the first postmaster and a small community formed around the Rock Creek area. In 1870 a gold rush occurred and the store became a supply base for the miners camped in the nearby Snake River Canyon. The increased freight and passenger business, the mail, and shipments of gold from Idaho’s mines all passed through Rock Creek. The little settlement experienced a 15-year period of busy activity.

In the fall of 1876 two German emigrants, Herman Stricker and John Botzet, bought the Rock Creek Store and contents, a stable and contents, and a dwelling house for approximately \$5,300. Stricker became the Rock Creek postmaster in 1877 and served in that position for the next 22 years. Botzet sold out to Stricker in 1884.

Herman Stricker (1841-1920), born at Hanover, Germany, immigrated to America arriving at Cincinnati, Ohio at age 15. He was employed as a clerk in a grocery store before he enlisted with the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war he and his partner ran a commissary for several years, selling food and goods to the transcontinental railroad workers as the rails moved across the country. They came to Idaho following a rush of gold miners to the Snake River Canyon, where they owned a store at Springtown for several years before buying out Bascom’s bigger store.



Herman Stricker

KELTON FREIGHT ROAD

Kelton, Utah, was destined to become the main shipping point of the Central Pacific Railroad for southwestern Idaho after Ben Holladay chose a stage route from Boise City to Kelton. Kelton Road received all the passengers and express business conducted by stage lines. By the summer of 1869, John Hailey had 42-hour stage service between Kelton and Boise with nineteen stage stations on the 232-mile road. Twelve miles to the west of Rock Creek was the Desert Stage Station and 14 miles to the east was the Mountain Meadows Station. Holladay’s route was followed mainly by freighters with organized outfits carrying freight to the mining towns in Idaho. Up to eight pairs of mules, oxen or horses pulled three or four creaking wagons hitched together. In 1871 two major improvements occurred: a new grade down Raft River that saved 18 miles, and the completion of Glenn’s Ferry. Freighters could make the trip over the new road easily in 19 days. These changes helped the Kelton route maintain superiority over the other roads leading into southwestern Idaho. In the fall of 1879, John Hailey moved his Utah, Idaho, and Oregon stage line to the Glenn’s Ferry route.

With the completion of the Oregon Short Line Railroad to Shoshone in February 1883, the Kelton Road was soon replaced as the major supply distribution point for the southern portion of Idaho. By March 1, 1883, all stage, express, mail, and freight traffic from Kelton had been transferred to the advancing Oregon Short Line. By July 1884 a traveler on the old route observed that “grass now grows over the defunct overland Kelton stage road where the weary traveler once traveled in clouds of dust...” Parts of the road continued to be used with the county road south of Oakley to the City of Rocks still being on the same right-of-way.

SNAKE CANYON MINING

In 1870 two stage drivers panning for gold on the Snake River on their day off struck pay dirt and the gold attracted hundreds of miners to the canyon. Within three years, the easily accessible gold had been panned or dug from the canyon walls, and American miners began selling their claims to Chinese, who took over the community in the canyon called Springtown. Between 1870 and 1880, about 500 Chinese were mining in the canyon. Chinese miners would have passed through Rock Creek Station going back and forth to the canyon mines, and they frequented a log structure there named China House.

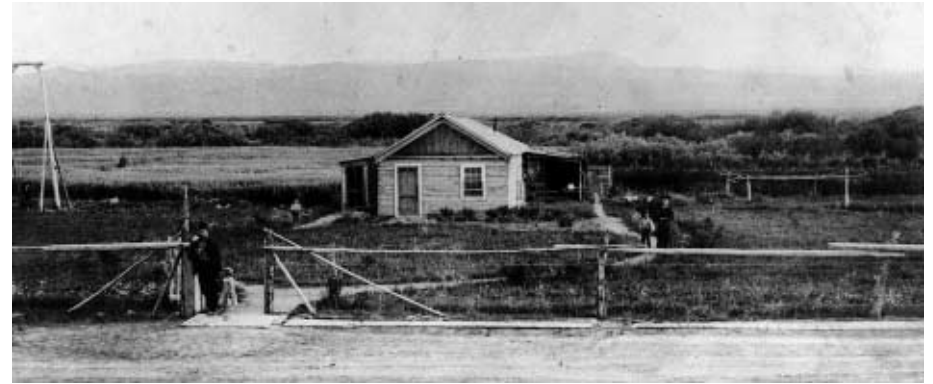
ROCK CREEK COMMUNITY

The 1880 census reported that 44 people lived at Rock Creek, including those at a new post office location about 2 miles upstream from the station. Railroad construction in Utah boosted the prosperity of Rock Creek for a period of time. In 1883 the Oregon Short Line Railroad was constructed on the north side of the Snake River — across the river from Rock Creek — ultimately contributing to a decline in the community's importance. The Snake River Canyon — a great crack in the earth — isolated the settlement. The cattle industry helped to expand the community and many large ranches in the area depended on the store. The 1900 census lists 146 people living in the Rock Creek area. The people included Scandinavian, Scottish and German settlers, freighters, teamsters and miners, many of whom were Chinese. Irrigation from the Milner Dam in 1905 further transformed the area. Travel continued by horse until the 1920s.

STRICKER HOMESITE

Lucy Walgamott (1859-1949) arrived at Rock Creek in 1879 to visit her sister, Irene, and brother Charlie. Irene's husband, Charles Trotter, operated the stage station where Lucy met Herman Stricker. They were married in 1882 and had four sons and three daughters. Lucy was an accomplished musician who prized the first organ in the area which she often played at dances, transporting the organ with her.

Herman Stricker filed for and was granted water rights for irrigation and mining at the site in 1884. He homesteaded additional land until his family holdings totaled 960 acres, most of which was flood irrigated. Stricker was in the cattle business from the time the mines closed. Farming increased during World War I, raising mostly wheat. Fourth of July ice cream socials were held at the homesite until 1917.



Dwelling purchased by Herman Stricker in 1876 and lost to fire in 1900. Notice Stricker family, large swing and pole and wire fence. (ISHS 80-13.23)

On her 83rd birthday, Lucy donated the Rock Creek Store to the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Herman and Lucy Stricker are buried in the Rock Creek Cemetery located 1-mile east and a short distance south on County Road G-3 (Rock Creek Road), along with other family members and pioneer neighbors.

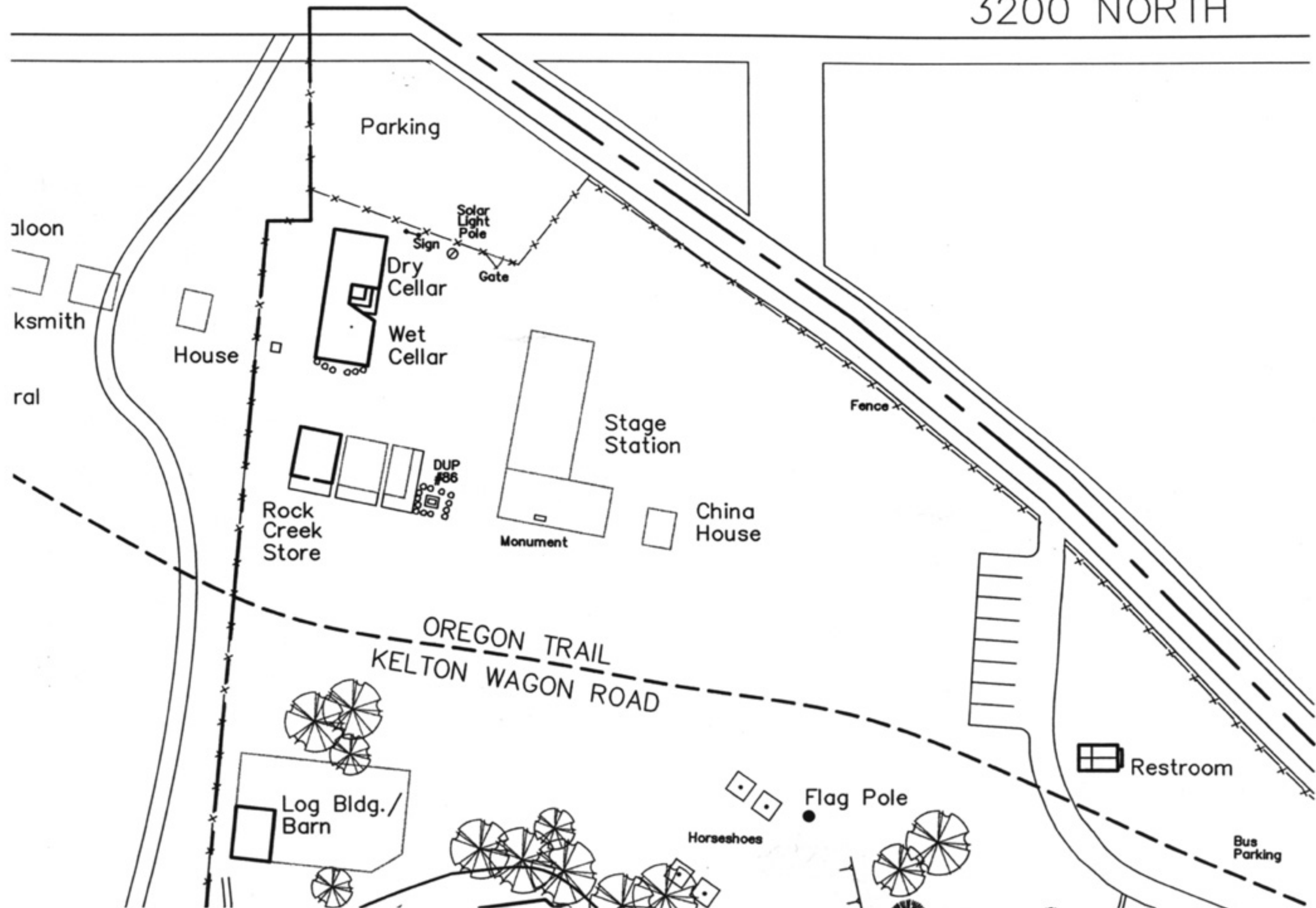


Lucy Stricker

Shortly after the store was given to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in 1942, they assembled a monument on the site. Unfortunately, some vandalism occurred at the site and by the late 1970s the store was back under the ownership of the heirs of Herman and Lucy Stricker. Gladys Stricker (1899-1982), a daughter, lived her life at the site. She took many early photographs of the area beginning in 1913 and gave Don Dean, nearby resident her negatives. Bertha and Clifton Haynes, a grandson, farmed the Stricker Ranch for many years.

In 1984 descendants of the Stricker family donated the five-acre historic site to the State of Idaho. On September 28, 1984, a Trustee's Deed conveyed the home, two-room log cabin and store to the state to repair and preserve and "to honor the memory of Herman Stricker and Lucy G. Stricker and for the public interest as a historical site." The surrounding Stricker Ranch was sold to Ken Mulberry in the early 1990s.

3200 NORTH



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND FRIENDS OF STRICKER RANCH

Numerous improvements have been made to the site by the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) and the Friends of Stricker Ranch. The Friends of Stricker Ranch, Inc., a non-profit group was formed in 1984 to support the site. Work began in 1985 with a preservation roof constructed over the store. In 1988 the Friends adopted policy guidelines for preserving and operating the site. In 1989 repairs were made to the house foundation and porch, along with a new coat of paint duplicating the original green, yellow, and ocher colors. The garage was also painted. The house septic tank and drain field were improved and a 300-amp electric panel was installed. After flooding, Rock Creek was reestablished in 1989, and again in 1998, using ISHS funds originally intended for maintenance of the site structures. Oregon Trail and Kelton Road markers were installed by the Oregon-California Trail Association (OCTA). In 1990 the Friends and ISHS worked together to receive a legislative appropriation and install a new cedar shingle roof for the Stricker House. New trees and grass were planted and Lucy Stricker's rock terraces restored. Picnic tables have been provided and a flagpole dedicated by several veterans' organizations. A log building expert analyzed and made recommendations for the store and log residence-barn in 1991. ISHS undertook extensive historical research of the site in 1993 and designed and printed an excellent foldout brochure with photographs, graphics and text. The Summer House was rebuilt in 1996, along with relocating the garage and constructing the restrooms. An excellent teacher's educational resource packet, *Crossroads of History*, was produced for the site in 1997. The store's roof was replaced and the new sill logs were added in 1999. Most recently a rack card for the site was printed and this master plan was completed.

Although continuous improvements have been made since the early years of public ownership, the historic resource has suffered from a limited framework to guide the site, minimal funding, and sporadic management. Looking back, numerous complementary projects have been completed to strengthen the site despite limited resources. Now opportunities exist to enhance the resources necessary to transform the site into a "state class" historic site.

SITE

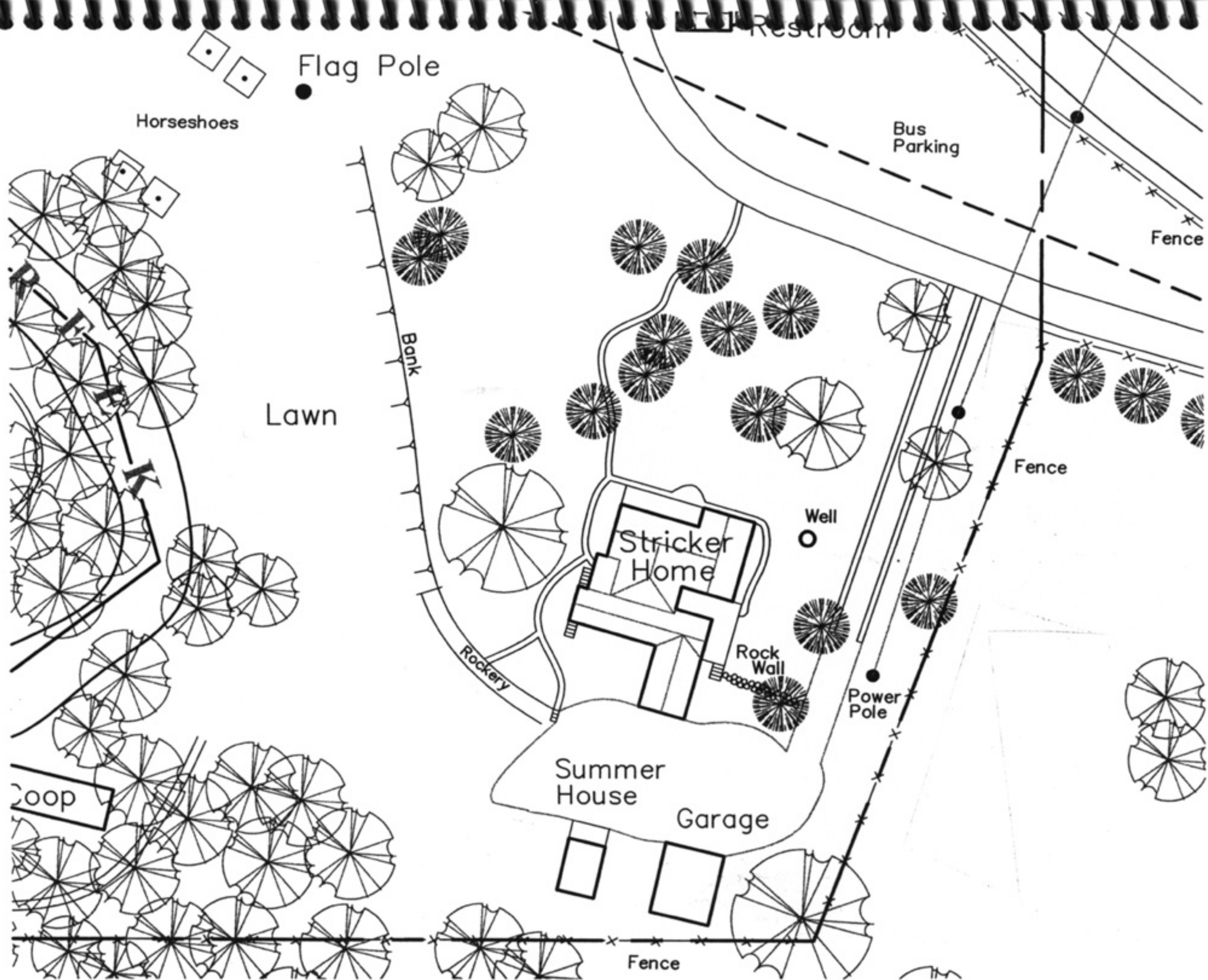
The 5.05-acre site currently consists of eight structures. For purposes of this master plan, the site has been divided into three sections:

1. **The historic section** — the store, rock cellars, foundations of other townsite buildings, the Oregon Trail, the Kelton Road, the Overland mail and stage line, Rock Creek, and the cemetery. Historic period — 1864 to 1883.
2. **The park section** — the lower lawn and creek to the south
3. **The homesite section** — the Stricker home, the upper lawn area, gardens and plantings, garage, and summer house. Historic period — 1900 to 1940.

The store and stage station area is situated on a basalt bluff that slopes from the north to Rock Creek on the south. Although this area is high enough above the creek level that flooding is not a potential problem, run-off across the site is a concern.

The house is set among mature native and introduced evergreen and deciduous trees. From 1900 to 1930 the Stricker home was a showplace, largely due to the remarkable lawn and flower gardens that Lucy Striker maintained surrounding the ornate two-story structure. She was a lover of trees and flowers and her yard was landscaped to resemble a palette of color. Many of the trees now growing there were raised from seeds brought from her Iowa home. Two red cedar trees were brought to her from the hills to the south by cowboys. One was removed in 1985 and has been replaced. The linden tree in the front yard came from Germany. An orchard, part of which still stands, was located to the east of the house.

3200 North Road consists of a 50-foot right-of-way with 25 feet of pavement. The northern point of the site includes a 25-foot-wide county roadway easement parallel with and adjoining the section line along the north boundary. A parking area is located adjacent to 3200 North Road, just north of the Dry Cellar. The old paved county road, which angles in front of the site, has a 30-foot right-of-way and 18 feet of asphalt pavement. This old county road was a point of contention with the Strickers, who filed a 1910 court case protesting the county road. Old maps show the road curving around to respect an alignment that somewhat followed the



Oregon Trail. It may have been that a former building blocked a straight alignment for the road. The county road was eventually straightened out to match the 1-mile grid. A 12-foot wide gravel road (part of Oregon Trail) loops in front of the house. Two 2-foot concrete driving strips extend from the gravel driveway to the house; see site plan.

Other site features include a shaded lawn, picnic tables, horseshoe pit, and flagpole. A restroom was constructed near the loop driveway in 1996. Unfortunately, this location is flooded during high run off. A network of 2-foot wide concrete walks provides access to the house and rock gardens. At one time, upside-down beer bottles in the soil lined the path.

MONUMENTS

Various monuments have been installed to commemorate the site. Initiated in 1937 by the Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers, other monuments have been installed including one by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers in 1942, and, more recently, the National Park Service, Idaho Transportation Department, OCTA and descendants of the Stricker family. The monuments, along with their full text, material and location are listed below:

IDAHO SHAPED MONUMENT

Historical Spot. Strickers Store and Rock Creek Stage Station. Five Miles South. One Mile West. First Trading Post To Be Established West of Fort Hall On The Old Oregon Trail In 1863. Erected 1937 By Sons And Daughters Of Idaho Pioneers. Dedicated To The State Of Idaho. Inscribed Idaho shaped stone monument with bronze Oregon Trail Memorial medallion. Located U.S. 30, M.P. 227.3, next to #342.

ROCK CREEK STATION - ITD NO. 342

An 1864 overland stage station at Rock Creek, five miles south and a mile west of here, offered a desert oasis for 40 years before irrigated farming transformed this area. James Bascom's 1865 store and Herman Stricker's 1900 mansion have been preserved there as reminders of pioneer life in an isolated outpost. In addition to freight wagons and Oregon Trail emigrants, miners, and ranchers came from many miles to get their supplies there. ITD Historic Marker No. 342 located on U.S. 30 at M.P. 227.3.



Daughters of Utah Pioneers honoring Rock Creek Station in 1942. (ISHS 834-C)

ROCK CREEK STATION DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS NO. 86 ERECTED MAY 1942

Original building was erected by James Bascom in 1865. It was sold to Herman Stricker in 1876. The first trading post west of Fort Hall, station for Pony Express and Ben Holladay Stage Line. The largest artery of wagon travel in the United States passed here on Old Oregon Trail in 1884. This building was donated by Mrs. Lucy W. Stricker on her 83rd birthday. Twin Falls County Company. Rock monument with bronze plaque, located east of the store.



Bronze 1942 DUP marker, as it looks today, on lava rock base. (J. Bertram)

STONE INSCRIBED MONUMENT

This site, Old Rock Creek, was the transportation center for South Central Idaho from August 1864 when Ben Holladay's stagecoach first arrived here at the stage until the completion of the railroad on the north side of the Snake River twenty years later. Huge freight wagon trains, pack strings, stagecoaches and covered wagons stopped at this oasis for supplies and repairs or food and rest before resuming the long slow journey to their destination. Donated by the grandchildren of Frank P. Harney, 4th generation Idahoans. Inscribed granite stone located at site of stage station.

DEDICATED TO HERMAN AND LUCY STRICKER

Pioneers of Old Rock Creek who built an oasis in a sagebrush desert where all could find supplies and help when needed. Old Rock Creek 1864. "Ben Holladay located a stage station here in 1864, the next year the Store was built. It was purchased by Herman Stricker in 1875. A focal point for the early history of the area, covered wagon trains, huge freighters, stagecoaches, Indians, miners and cowboys were familiar sights at this historic site. The lovely Stricker home was built in 1900 after fire destroyed the first

home. The Stricker heirs deeded the home and store site to the Idaho Historical Society in 1984. Donated by the Great Grandchildren of Josie (josh) Garner Harney, 5th Generation Idahoans. Inscribed granite located in front of Stricker home.

STRICKER STORE AND HOMESITE

Stricker Store and Homesite has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior. Bronze plaque on rock, installed 1984.

STRICKER STORE ROCK CREEK, IDAHO

The waters of Rock Creek and the grass that grew along its banks provided a welcome oasis for travelers traveling the arid Snake River Plain. This combination caused the area to become a favorite camping site for Oregon Trail emigrants and a crossroads during the development of nineteenth century roads.

In 1864, Ben Holladay chose this site for a home station on his Overland Stage Line. The U. S. Army established Camp Reed near here in 1865 to protect travelers, and James Bascom built the Rock Creek Store. The store soon became a popular stopping place for emigrants, freighters, miners and cowboys. On August 31, 1888, Sarah Hall Pullium noted, "this Rock Creek Store is a great blessing to the emigrants... So as they can get a Sack of flour for their selves, and something to feed their starving teams on..."

In 1876 Herman Striker purchased the store and remained the proprietor until it closed in 1897. One of the cellars behind the store served as the first jail for the area. In 1878 Chief Buffalo Horn and his followers camped in the vicinity only days before the start of the Bannock Indian War. Stricker and his wife, Lucy, built the house just east of the store in 1900. It replaced one destroyed by fire the previous year. A small cemetery nearby contains the graves of three emigrants. Research, Signing and Funding by the Oregon California Trail Association May 1989. Aluminum on pedestal.

ROCK CREEK

Rock Creek flows through a high desert where average yearly rainfall is less than 10 inches. Surrounded by low, gray-green sagebrush, Rock Creek's willow-lined bed formed a welcome refuge for deer, antelope, and jackrabbits. Before the impact of dams, abundant salmon swam up the Snake River and then Rock Creek, where they spawned. The creek was a natural camping spot for Native Americans, primarily Shoshone and Bannock, and for explorers and pioneers who came to the area. Rock Creek was a popular camping spot along the Oregon Trail from the outset.



Early aerial photograph of Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite (c. 1945). Notice county road follows Oregon trail in front of Stricker Home (center). (ISHS Gladys Stricker Collection, P 1994.26, Don Dean)

Herman Stricker filed for water rights from Rock Creek in 1884, and the entire Stricker Ranch was irrigated from those early water rights. ISHS filed for water rights for the site and pays the Rock Creek Water Association \$20 annually to water 2 acres. The water rights are identified as 10# A-47-00129B 0.010 CFS and A-47-00130B 0.015. The lawn is currently irrigated from a pump in the creek.

Flooding caused extensive erosion along the creek bank to the west of the house during the fall of 1987 and again in 1998, threatening the integrity of the site. Steps were taken to secure permission from appropriate agencies to stabilize the stream bank and put Rock Creek back in its original channel, which flows in a U-shape along the site. Emergency repair work on the creek bank was completed in 1989, thanks to the Land Improvement Contractors Association, National Guard, and Soil Conservation Service groups who volunteered to stabilize banks and create a flood channel. Major repair work was again completed by the ISHS following flooding and erosion in 1998.

The water flow of Rock Creek is an integral part of the site. Though the channel has changed with time, a key section is the U-shaped channel near house and log cabin, which now receives significantly less water. A new channel has formed (see maps) which diverts most of the stream away from the U-shape banks.

Maintaining water flow in the U-shaped channel is important to the historic integrity of the site. The flow of the channel was very low in 1999 and 2000, forcing the pump for watering the lawn to use a seepage hole. Efforts are underway by all parties to assure adequate creek flow. Altering the flow of the creek is illegal and involves state (Department of Water Resources) and federal agencies. These agencies are now monitoring the flow to assure that it continues to run in its historic channels. To further safeguard the creek, a 20-foot natural buffer along the creek is required by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Another key feature of the creek is its mature black willow trees. One of the black willows, a short distance from the Chicken Coop, is the second largest of this variety in the state. (The largest is on the University of Idaho campus.) At one time an arched footbridge crossed the creek.



1990 aerial photograph of the site. (BLM)

EXISTING BUILDINGS

ROCK CREEK STORE

The original store building, constructed of logs and originally with a sod roof, is located at the west end of the site. James Bascom, the first owner, sold sugar, beans, coffee, whiskey, smoked salmon and beef, and the store served as a polling place, a post office, and social center. An addition, now removed, to the back of the building housed a saloon and card room for use by settlers, cowboys, and travelers. An existing ledger lists frequent sales of drinks, cigars, and card games. The store closed in 1897 and later served several times as a home and bunkhouse.

The 18-foot 8-inch by 22-feet 9-inch log building is the oldest building in the Magic Valley. The store is a single pen, hewn log, and simple gable cabin. The roof consists of split pole rafters laid across pole purlins. Its sod roof was replaced with shingles after a wet winter in 1879-80. Maintaining this historic double roof of sod and shingles has been a challenge. Wood trusses were replaced in the 1970s and the entire roof was covered by a protective roof constructed in 1990 by the Friends of Striker Ranch. The protective roof was removed in 1999 by the ISHS and the shingle roof replaced and pole roof repaired.



Rock Creek Store and Wet Cellar (c. 1930s). (ISHS Gladys Stricker Collection, Don Dean)

In front of the store, which is the location of the Oregon Trail, Overland Road, and Kelton Wagon Road, are large flat basalt rocks smoothed by activity. There is very little soil on the site, and sheet erosion has affected the store by increasing soil deposits at the rear and to the sides of the structure. That, in turn, has resulted in moisture retention and subsequent rotting of the sill logs and floor. Some recent regrading in the area has alleviated continued soil accumulation. The sill logs were replaced and building re-leveled in 1999. The floorboards rest directly on soil and have absorbed enough moisture to cause heaving and warping. Plans are underway to replace the floor.

WET CELLAR

Located north of the Rock Creek Store, the cellar was used to store saloon supplies. It is a semi-subterranean structure created by enlarging a natural depression in the basalt and adding poles and a dirt floor. It has a sod roof and is entered through a door on the south side.

DRY CELLAR

Located north of the Rock Creek Store, the cellar was used for storage of food and supplies. A semi-subterranean structure, it was created by enlarging a natural depression in the basalt. Poles and a dirt roof were added to complete the structure. It is entered through a door on the south side with steps leading down into the ground. The dry rock wall construction is a unique feature of the cellar structures.

The Dry Cellar sometimes served as a jail until prisoners could be transported to Boise for trial, and as a place of refuge during Indian attacks. One prisoner by the name of Bill Dowdle bragged that the Stricker site would stink of dead bodies when he got out of prison. When he came back to the store, he fired a couple of shots at the people around the store. One of the bullets grazed the storekeeper, who grabbed a handgun and killed Dowdle. He was buried in the nearby cemetery and later removed to a family selected plot.



Log residence, later a barn (c. 1950). Notice level of Rock Creek and open landscape (ISHS 61.100.03d)

LOG BUILDING-BARN

South of the store and on the bank of Rock Creek was a residence later used as a barn. This structure closely resembles the store and it may date to the same construction period. The 18-foot by 24-foot cabin is round log, single pen, steeply notched structure. The roof is constructed with purlins set in log gable ends. A series of log joists set perpendicular to and between the purlins add support. A single door is on the west side and on the east side is a long livestock-feeding window. The cabin appears to have few alterations since its initial construction and the building is badly deteriorated. The roof is completely gone and the log walls are in stable but poor condition. Limited exploration work has been done on the building.

STRICKER HOME

A six-room log cabin on the site burned in March 1900. Later that year the Stricker family built a new home on the same spot, which exists today on the southeast corner of the Rock Creek site. The one-and-one-half story ell-type frame farmhouse is built of stockade style construction on a rock foundation. The core of the house walls are 4-inch by 16-inch planks, now invisible under wood siding and plaster walls. Machine milled lumber for the structure was hauled from Albion.

The basic plan is an ell, with large gables in the cross wing as well as lateral running gables in the main block. Gabled dormers facing front and back occur halfway along the main block. The first floor consists of a dining room, parlor, living room, two bedrooms, and a cloak room that was the post office for a time. Much of the pine trim is hand grained. A number of photographs of Shoshone Falls hung on the walls. Upstairs are five bedrooms, with both an inside and outside (now removed) stairway. In 1916 the original 11-room structure was expanded with an extension of the formal dining room, present kitchen, bath, service entrance, sun porch, and storage area. The dining room is finished in arts-and-crafts style, including built-ins. A poured-in-place cement addition for drying, canning, and storage of food was also added at that same time. The rear elevation presents an interesting example of rural continuous architecture, as early frame and poured concrete additions were added. The upper floor of the house served as a hotel for travelers and cowboys as well as for engineers and surveyors during construction of Milner Dam and Twin Falls Canal.



1909 photo of the Stricker Home. Standing in front is Mr. Harley and Blythe, Mavis holding Lily, Gladys, Herman and Lucy Stricker. Notice roof cresting, porch brackets and lattice railing. (ISHS Gladys Stricker Collection, Don Dean)

Improvements include a new 300-amp electrical panel, foundation repairs, drain field, and a new cedar shingle roof in 1990 provided by a legislative appropriation to the Idaho State Historical Society and the Friends of Stricker Ranch. The Stricker house is located on what appears to be part of the basalt flow but closer to the flood plain. The area to the west and south (or back) of the house is in the flood plain, periodically flooded by Rock Creek. Artifacts collected by the Friends, some original to the house, grace the interior.

SUMMER HOUSE

South of the Stricker Home, the Summer House building served as the kitchen during the 1916 construction on the original home and was used for cooking and canning during hot weather in order to help keep the house cool. The structure is in good condition, having received extensive rebuilding in 1996. The reconstruction was a memorial to Margaret Moon and early settlers. The interior contains artifacts that are used effectively to approximate the original use of the building.

GARAGE

Relocated in 1996 to the southeast of the Stricker House, this two-vehicle structure (20 feet by 24 feet) was originally located in front of the house and directly on top of the Oregon Trail. The structure is in good condition and will need periodic maintenance to retain its current state of repair. The roof will need replacement every 20 to 25 years.

CHICKEN COOP

This part-log and part-frame construction is badly deteriorated and is torquing out of shape. Further research should be conducted to better identify its past uses, as well as to document the building before it collapses. Its most recent use was as a chicken coop.

RESTROOM

Vault restrooms (12 feet by 15 feet) were constructed in 1996 with \$22,000 appropriated by the State Division of Public Works. They provide toilets for both male and female visitors to the site but no running water for washing hands. Unfortunately, the open central location has an adverse visual impact on the historic site and the facility is located in an area that is on lower ground and prone

to flooding. This has required more frequent pumping of the vault than would otherwise be necessary and may create a potentially serious health hazard by allowing runoff of raw sewage onto the site. Twice during the 1996-1997 winter the tank flooded and had to be pumped out. It should be relocated or the site re-graded.

FOUNDATIONS

STAGE STATION SITE

A few stones outline the former stage station that was built by Ben Holladay in 1864 to accommodate horses and passengers. It was a home station, which meant it would have facilities for at least 40 horses and provided overnight accommodations and meals for stage passengers who rode in the bright red Holladay coaches. Charles and Irene Trotter took charge of the station in 1869.

The Stage Station was built of stone laid up loosely with clay and covered with a sod roof. An early photograph portrays a sod covered building in the process of having a new roof added over the sod roof. New rafters are seen at the left and sod at right. The bunning poles are clearly visible at the eve and gable edges. A bunning pole at the eve edge of the building is commonly used in sod covered roofs to secure the insulating sod or dirt. It stood for many years, but was eventually razed in 1908. A portion of the building's foundation has been outlined with rocks. The ell-shaped station actually extended to the center of the county road north of the site.

CHINA HOUSE SITE

The presumed location of what the Stricker family referred to as the China House and is assumed to have been a Chinese store and lodging facility is marked by lava rock that outlines the approximate foundation. Early photographs show a log structure with gable roof. The log cabin was a gathering place for Chinese attracted to the area by mining. This small building was located east of the Rock Creek Store and may have been used as a store that sold Chinese merchandise. In addition to mining along the Snake River, Chinese settlers tended gardens and sold vegetables at the site.

Between 1870 and 1880, about 500 Chinese were mining in the canyon. Chinese miners would have passed through Rock Creek Station as they were going back and forth to the canyon mines. Several Chinese merchants in Corrinne, Utah, shipped Chinese goods via Kelton Road. Most likely the store had opium, burnt paper written in classical Chinese, Chinese ceramics, clothing, tins, and food. Herman Stricker himself sold opium to the Chinese miners. Eventually, open hostility from other residents and restrictive immigration laws, such as the Exclusion Act of 1882, forced the Chinese to leave the area.

Research is underway by ISHS archeologists to identify the exact location of the China House. In July 1997, test excavations were conducted at the site: and a total of 1,037 artifacts were recovered. Items found include glass vessels, glass objects, glass bottle shards, smoking pipe, snuff bottle, glasses, metal cans, and a slate writing board. A few artifacts were recovered that might reveal material used in the superstructure of China House. Roof parts were represented by roofing shingle fragments, tar paper fragments, milled wood fragments, charcoal or burned wood, glass shards, and both cut and wire nails. Artifacts from the 1997 excavation represent a small cross section of the material culture from a range of occupations from the 1880s to the 1930s. Additional excavation in other portions of the station would provide interesting comparisons. Further data recovery may result in a greater volume of artifacts from which to draw information related to demographics, material culture, consumer use, and supply networks.

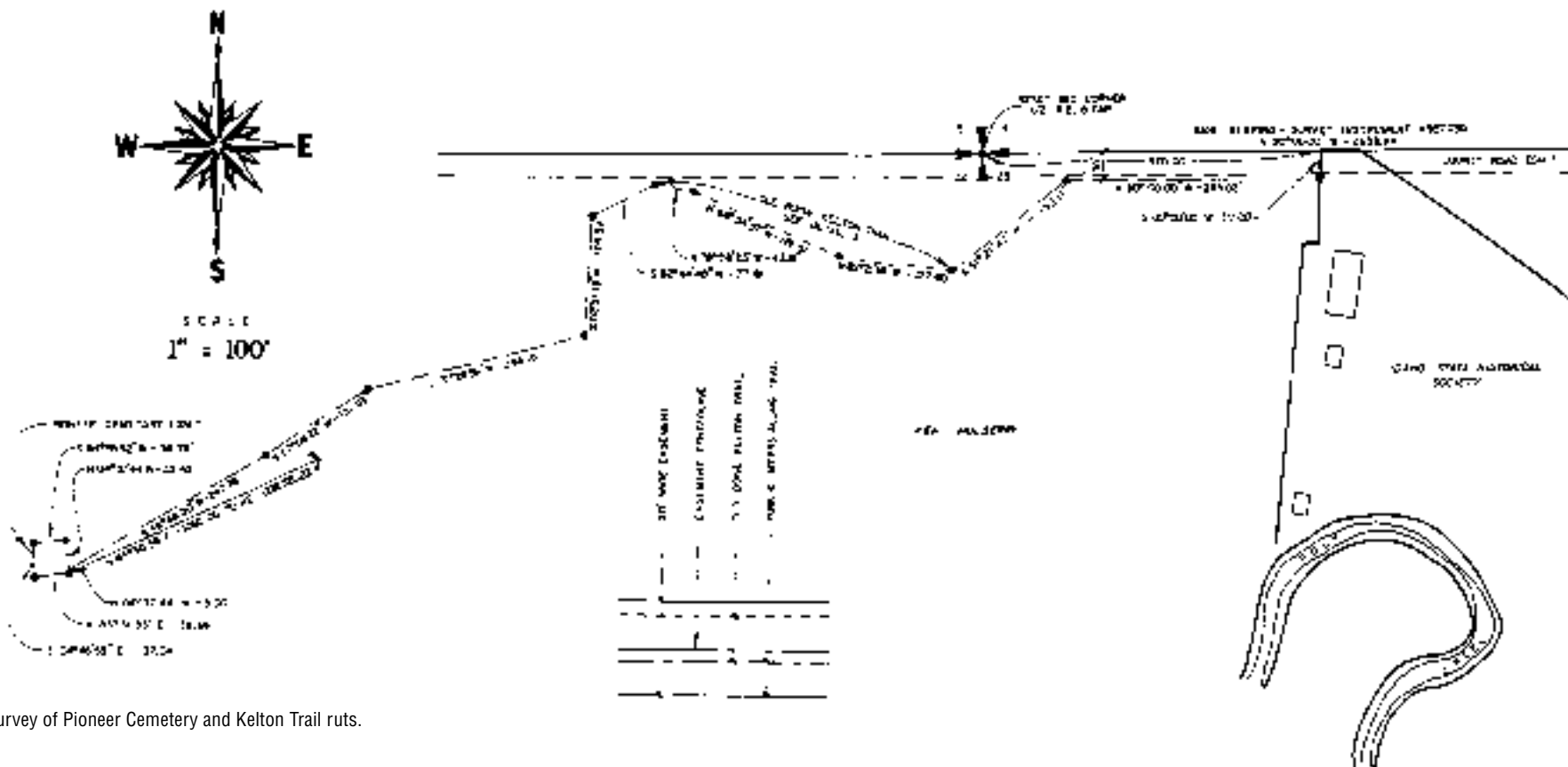
FORMER ROCK CREEK BUILDINGS

The old Rock Creek community was active from 1864 until the early 1880s. Historians have located more than 20 buildings on both sides of Rock Creek on and near the site. Two buildings, most likely dwellings for the people at the stage station, were located just west of the Rock Creek Store. Nearby was the old Dance Hall, originally located on the lawn west of the Stricker Home and later moved east of the store in the area of the stage station and used as a barn. Torn down in the early 1980s, it was a gable-roofed structure of rectangular design, with a sliding door and casement window under the gable. Other buildings near the store included a saloon and a blacksmith shop near the present corrals. Mr. Stricker kept a blacksmith there because wagons came through needing repairs and a blacksmith was a draw for the business. Two other houses were located between the log building-barn and the store. There was a hotel, which was the “most fastidious a traveler could desire.” A schoolhouse was located one-half mile west of the site. Campgrounds were scattered along the creek.

ROCK CREEK-STRICKER (PIONEER) CEMETERY

Located on private land west of the Rock Creek site, the cemetery contains graves dating from 1874 to 1897. Fencing and markers were added by the Oregon-California Trails Association in 1990 and 1991. Livestock grazing in the field around the cemetery regularly damage the protective fencing and threaten preservation of the remaining grave markers and nearby wagon tracks of the Oregon Trail. The cemetery is difficult to find and has no indication of where visitors should park. Lack of legal access allows plowing around the area, making it difficult to drive or walk to the site.

A deed of gift from Ken Mulberry Enterprises and Jennifer Mulberry conveys and assigns the cemetery property of 0.15 acres to ISHS. As identified on the map, the cemetery commences at the Northwest corner of Section 23. Said point lies North 90° 0', West, 2639.94 feet from the North quarter of Section 23. Thence, South 90° 0' East, 370'. Thence, South 0K 0" West, 100 feet Thence, North 90K 0' West 20 feet to the point of beginning.



Survey of Pioneer Cemetery and Kelton Trail ruts.

Stone monuments in the cemetery are identified below:

ROCK CREEK/STRICKER CEMETERY

The people whose final resting place is in this pioneer cemetery reflected the unique and colorful history of the community of Old Rock Creek today known as Stricker. Three emigrant families left beloved children behind when they continued their journey west. Two of the emigrant children were among those buried here. The other child was buried east of the Stricker home at an unknown date.

This marker is dedicated to the following persons and to all who traveled the historic trails but were unable to reach their intended destination.

4. J.R. McNire, a Kelton-Boise freighter who was crushed between his wagons on a hill north of the cemetery.
5. 1874 Hughie Quinn, a murder victim.

6. 1877 William Dowdle, a convicted horse thief, who was slain when he tried to take vengeance on the people of Old Rock Creek for his capture in 1875. Body relocated to family plot.
7. Emigrant Girl, name unknown (possibly a Hamilton).
8. 1884 A Gypsy woman, name unknown.
9. 1893 Mrs. Henry Snyder, a local resident.
10. 1897 Emigrant child, name unknown.

In Memory of Samuel Brannan Collins Born – February 11, 1848 in San Francisco, CA Died – October 14, 1868 of a sudden illness while employed at the Rock Creek Station. Erected 1994.

HISTORIC ROCK CREEK STATION AND STRICKER HOMESITE MASTER PLAN

This master plan identifies how the ISHS might oversee a coordinated program for site improvements, educational use, enjoyable visitor experiences, better management, and marketing. The plan recommends future actions relating to the buildings, site, archaeology, and possible expansion. Educational programs are encouraged along with new interpretive signage for the site.

METHODOLOGY

The plan was prepared on the basis of the large collection of historical information listed in the bibliography, one-to-one interviews, and questionnaires returned from members of Friends of Stricker Ranch, Inc., teachers, county staff and legislators. This plan was formulated by understanding the site's history, its visual characteristics, and suggestions obtained throughout the planning process

NAME RESTORED

The site and its buildings have had various names, and a concerted effort is now under way to maintain a consistency for the site name on maps, brochures and publicity. Knowledge of the history of this early Magic Valley community of over 20 buildings faded after a few decades. With the early history of the site largely forgotten, and because of its long association with the Stricker family, the site became variously known as Stricker Store, Stricker Ranch, and other titles. The opening of the new Rock Creek Store on Rock Creek Road caused further confusion.

In 1997 the Board of Trustees of the Idaho State Historical Society at the request of the Friends of Stricker, Inc., restored the historically accurate and descriptive name of the site to Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite. A larger segment of the traveling public would venture off the interstate to visit the site if it was identified as a state historic site.

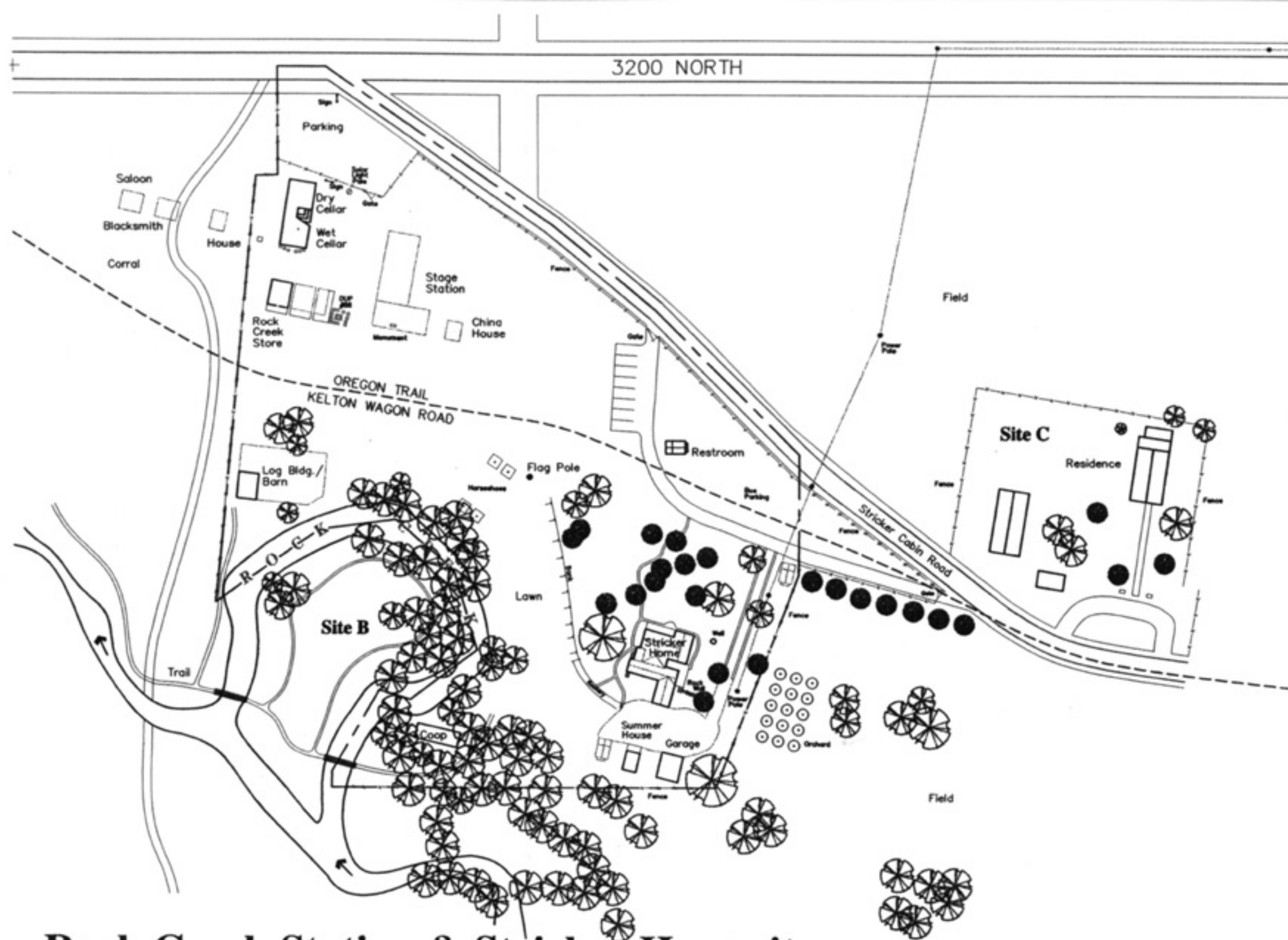
USE

The Rock Creek site can be a first-class educational facility, working to better inform visitors about its rare and architecturally significant buildings, intact in their original setting, and their association with the earliest transportation serving the northwest and settlement of south central Idaho. Its offerings include heritage education, research, sightseeing, picnicking, special events and birdwatching. The lawn area has created a good picnic area with shade trees, and the site is known as a good place to stop on the way to the South Hills. The potential exists to host a number of educational programs and special events at the site. Current visitation, approximately 3,000 people annually, is by school children from Magic Valley schools, by historical organizations, and by the public.

OPERATIONS

The site is open year around during daylight hours for free self-guided tours. The Stricker Home and Summer House are open on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. from April 1 to October 31. Pre-arranged guided, narrated tours are available upon request. Traditional museum hours are anticipated when the proposed visitor center opens. Visitors interested in research will be welcome to browse through copies of photographs, periodicals and books. The number of guided tours should increase. Meeting facilities would be available for a small fee and must be reserved. For information on guided tours or large group use of the site, call (208) 323-4000 or (208) 733-8753.

No fee for individuals and families is currently charged, but donations are welcomed. There is a site use fee for large group tours and large group use of the grounds. School groups are a suggested \$.50 per student and \$1.25 for adults. The fee for renting the site under a use agreement is \$125.



Rock Creek Station & Stricker Homesite

Master Plan

Idaho State Historical Society



PROPOSED SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

SITE CLEAN UP

The site and Rock Creek banks need to be cleaned, removing debris, farm machinery, wagon pieces, etc. Appropriate artifacts should be moved to the house or the proposed tack room for future interpretation. Fences not essential to safety should be removed along the creek and the willow trees nurtured.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Native plants should be returned to the site and protection afforded animal life. Bird nest boxes could be added to support birding. The historic section should be given a more original feel of a small station. Efforts should be made to restore the area, to the extent possible, using the tangible reminder of the store, cellars, cabin, and foundations to tell the story of the station and Oregon Trail era. Portions of the site, including the parking area and the store area, should be re-graded to improve drainage and to inhibit soil erosion. Also needing to be sought is upgrading the water and sewer systems and securing additional water rights for the property.

TRAIL SYSTEM

A pedestrian trail should connect the parking area, cellars, store, Oregon Trail and Stricker Home, Summer House and restrooms. Most of the trail system should be wheelchair accessible with the trail system extending across Rock Creek over bridges to the small island and along the creek to the Rock Creek-Stricker Cemetery.

PARKING

The existing parking lot needs to be re-graded to drain away from the historic site. Signing at the turn-in needs upgrading to avoid some people driving by the site on 3200 North Road, as is often the case currently. Additional parking is located just west of the gravel driveway. Bus parking should be along the gravel driveway or behind the current rest rooms. Future options include redesigning the entrance to Stricker Store Road and moving the parking area further east.

SITE FENCES

Fences appropriate to an earlier period of time are recommended to help convey the historic theme. It is recommended that the property be fenced with log, pole, and wire fences similar to those seen in early photographs. Fence corners could be anchored with lava rock.

WEED CONTROL

Scotch, musk, and Canadian thistle are found in abundance along Rock Creek borders in Sections 22 and 23. Controlling weed infestation located along Rock Creek would require a cooperative effort by all those in the watershed, as such weeds are designated noxious by the State of Idaho. Thistle was chopped along the creek bank in 1999 and 4-D amine is periodically sprayed in the spring to treat the thistles and other weeds.

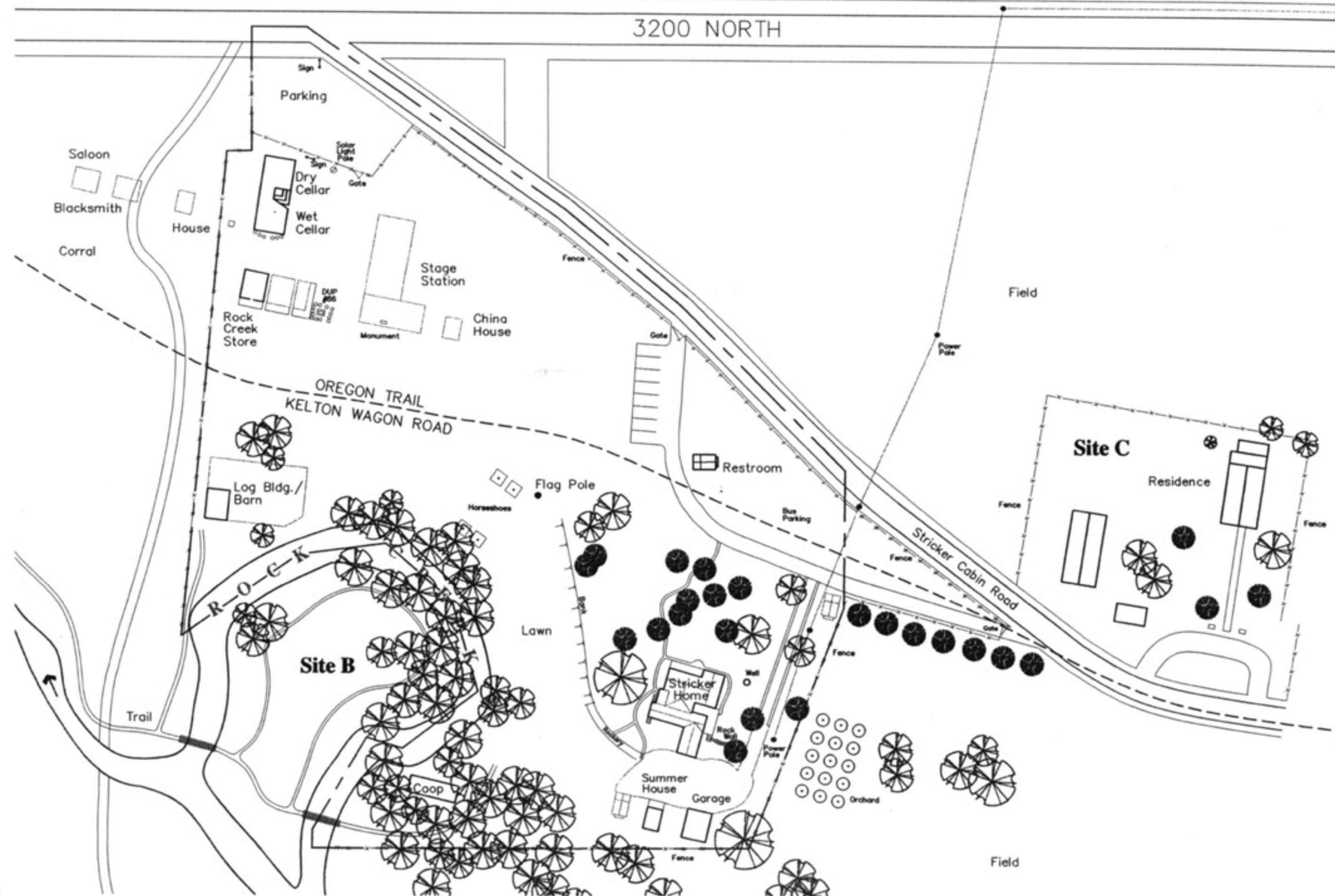
SITE ACQUISITION

When appropriate, the ISHS should seek to acquire additional adjacent land(s) identified in the master plan as essential to maintaining and developing the integrity of the site to its fullest potential. Water rights should be included with these properties. These acquisitions should include:

Rock Creek-Stricker Cemetery and Oregon Trail Ruts: (Site A – see map on page 23) Located just west of the Rock Creek Store, this triangular site extends to the Rock Creek-Stricker Cemetery, between Rock Creek and 3200 North Road. The site provides access to the cemetery from 3200 North Road and features Oregon Trail ruts. Proposed improvements to the site include a pedestrian trail from the store to the cemetery along Rock Creek and the Oregon Trail, an access road and parking area for the cemetery and an eight to ten-unit campground. An existing farm access road across the property should be relocated.

Rock Creek Island-Stricker Orchard: (Site B) The curving U-shaped creek bed south of the site has become an island due to a new channel of Rock Creek. This island could become a park-like addition to the property connected by bridges and paths. The former orchard east of the Stricker Home could be replanted and serve as a working educational orchard.

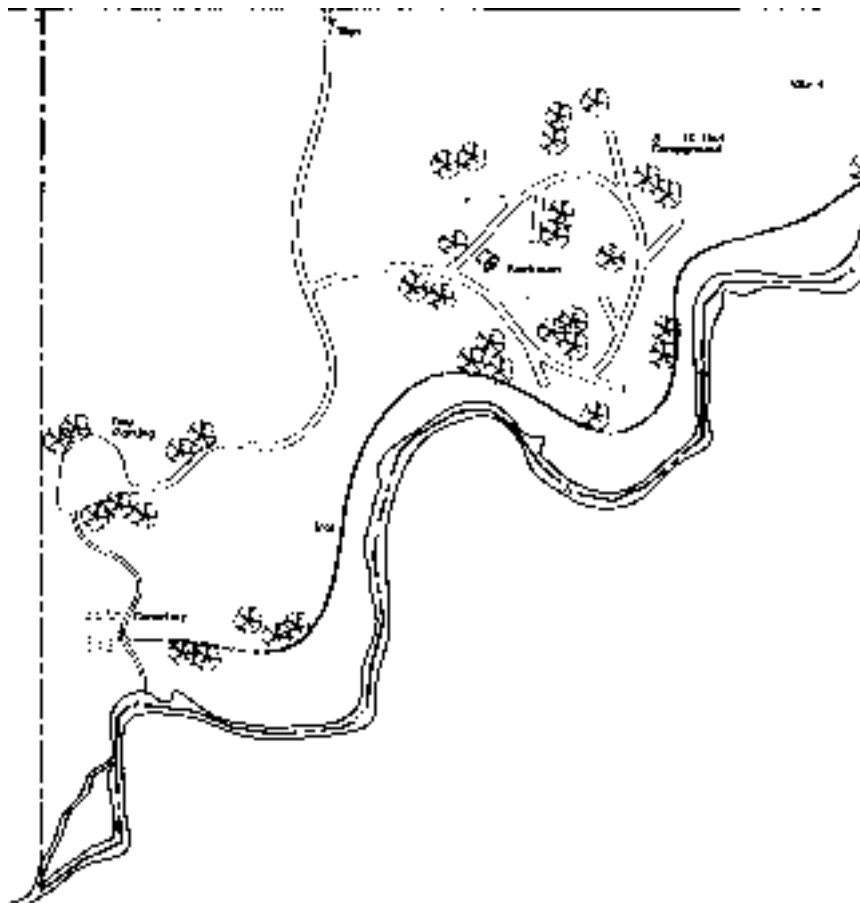
3200 NORTH



The Bungalow House: (Site C) The bungalow house and property just east of the Stricker Home should be purchased and converted to use as a caretaker's home and maintenance facility. This property was originally part of Stricker Ranch. The adjacent garage building could be used to store a stagecoach and wagons used at special events.

ROCK CREEK STATION CAMPGROUND

For years, the Rock Creek area was a popular emigrant campsite and this use should again be made available to visitors and Oregon Trail travelers. A future consideration is building an eight-to-ten-unit campground be developed along Rock Creek just east of the cemetery. Facilities would include a vault rest room and water. The campground would be available for periodic Oregon Trail wagon trains and those just traveling the trail.



REPLANT STRICKER ORCHARD

A collection of fruit trees should be planted near the Stricker Home. Fruit growing and canning was a major activity for Lucy Stricker and provided nourishment for her large family. A small orchard would provide a working environment to educate students and visitors about the role of the orchards and canning.

ARCHAEOLOGY

A key component of the site's history and culture is ongoing archaeology work. Further research would contribute to the historical value of the property as a landmark. The soils of the Rock Creek Station are a historical repository of valuable information. Much of the information about the people who lived here and traveled through here has never been fully documented. Test excavations on the China House in 1997 unveiled promising evidence of historic materials.

Future archaeology should include a general survey of the entire property, additional excavation in other portions of the station to provide comparisons of prehistoric use, and excavation of the old foundations and emigrant campgrounds that could enhance the rich history of the site.

Potential alliances with the ISHS archaeology staff could include an archaeology field school at the site with a state university or college. The work could help the site realize its potential as a tourist destination, as a historical site, to provide an educational experience and as a source of data for scholarly research.

BUILDING RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

Rock Creek Store and the Stricker Home have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. All work at the Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite should be in compliance with the U. S. Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects.

ROCK CREEK STORE

The floor will be replaced using appropriate lumber. Early photos show a narrow porch extending across the front of the building. The porch will be replaced by a historically accurate structure. Other improvements to be undertaken include replacing the doors with historically accurate doors, restoring the windows to working order, redecking and chinking the logs, installing an appropriate period wood stove, and a security system.

New interpretive panels would highlight the history of both the store and the site. Interpretive exhibits could include a store counter and secured historical items on display. One item, Herman Stricker's safe, which occupied the store for many years, is to be returned from the Twin Falls Historical Museum.



Rock Creek Store and Wet Cellar

WET CELLAR

The structure is stable but requires some restoration. Planking on both sides of the entrance needs to be repaired or replaced and the door repaired. Some rock work is needed. The roof needs some minor repairs and will need replacement every 20 to 30 years. A fence should be installed to eliminate access to the roof by visitors.

DRY CELLAR

The structure is stable but requires some restoration. The cellar stairs need to be cleaned and repaired for the safety of visitors. The rock work on the cellar needs some work. The door frame and lintel need repairs, and the door needs to be reinstalled. The roof, which consists of dirt on straw over pine poles, needs repairs and will need replacement every 20 to 30 years. A fence should be installed to eliminate access to the roof.

LOG BUILDING–BARN

Further study and exploratory work is needed to determine how best to restore and use the cabin. Stabilization, sill logs, and a roof are a top priority. Other work should include replacing front pole rafters and correct site grading. One potential use could be to display harness, tack, pitchfork, shovels, and other equipment used to supply horse travel up until the 1920s.

CHINA HOUSE AND ROCK CREEK STATION

Plans call for maintaining a foundation outline, installing interpretive signage and continuing archaeology work and historical analysis.

STRICKER HOME–PROPOSED VISITOR CENTER AND HOUSE MUSEUM

The intent of the house museum is to help visitors recognize, understand and appreciate the significant contributions of the site, its role in transportation and the Stricker Homesite. This structure is in good overall condition but in need of improvements to better serve visitors. Exterior re-painting is underway, celebrating the Stricker Home's 100th birthday. Architectural plans for rehabilitating the house are recommended. Preliminary plans call for the house to serve as a visitor center and house museum. The front rooms of the house could be maintained for interpretive exhibits, while the back could provide administrative and support functions. This desirable use restores the historic house and increases the visitor experience. The house and current caretaker space could be combined, should the caretaker be relocated to another building. Proposed uses include interpretive displays and period rooms, reception area, gift shop, restrooms, vending machine area, and office space for staff and volunteers to support the site and house museum activities. Upgrades should include plumbing, wiring, heating, restrooms, and

3200 NORTH



restoring the interior finishes. The first story of the house should have wheelchair access. Provision should be made for additional water taps on the exterior of the house for water and for washing hands, and a drinking fountain should be added to accommodate the number of school children who visit. The upper portions of the chimneys are in need of some minor repointing to alleviate deterioration, as is the foundation. Lost historic elements of the house would include replacing roof cresting along the house ridge and the lattice style porch railing. Other needed work includes screen doors and ongoing garden plantings. The roof is in good condition but will need replacement within the next 15 years.



Stricker Home

Interior work includes the need to repair plaster ceilings and walls, repaint, and wallpaper. The dining room could be returned to the historic part of the house. Appropriate period furniture could be placed in the house, as could small wood-burning stoves for the upstairs rooms. Old style beds and items to furnish the rooms could provide the appearance of a hundred years ago. Room views of the house could allow area residents and visitors to appreciate the house for the time period of 1900 to 1930. Access to the upper floor should be limited to those understanding the difficulty of climbing and descending its stairway.

Exhibits could focus on the site as a transportation center vital to the development of southern Idaho and the Northwest. The house should have interpretive signs that explain its history, its unique construction, and the history of the Stricker family. The collections and exhibits are likely to evolve over time. Lighting is an important factor in the overall effect of an exhibit. Recessed lighting or tracks could be used as spot lighting to bring the light intensity up on special items. One interpretive opportunity is to take advantage of the house as a valuable architectural resource, illustrating its construction as the oldest house in the Magic Valley. A future option for expanded facilities is to reconstruct the Stage Station.

SUMMER HOUSE

Additional interpretation is needed on why such structures were used. Periodic maintenance will be required on the building.

RESTROOMS

Options for the restrooms include grading and landscaping the existing site or relocating the units. The restrooms could be relocated (new pad and vault) adjacent to the driveway or just west of the Summer House, see site plan. The vault needs to be sealed, accessible for pumping and 50 feet from Rock Creek. If the selected location is adjacent to the summer house, the driveway will need to be extended for handicap access and pumping.

CARETAKERS' HOUSE AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING

The bungalow house and property northeast of the Stricker Home should be purchased and converted to a caretakers' home and maintenance facility. This property was originally part of Stricker Ranch. The adjacent garage building could be used to store a stagecoach and wagons used at special events. This additional site would provide adequate room to attract long term caretakers for the site as well as provide the needed space to maintain and protect Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

This site has an extraordinary story to tell and many colorful characters and events to interpret. With its rich history of travelers and settlement, interpretive themes for the site could touch on subjects such as early explorers, trappers, Native Americans, Oregon Trail, Overland mail, freighting, the early cattle economy, an army encampment, the Chinese, the Strickers, the community, the importance of the creek, native animals and plants, and the commercial trade in the store. Key elements of interpretation are historical accuracy and period of significance—the appropriate era to which the cultural resource calls attention. An appropriate theme for the site is “Crossroads Of History,” used in ISHS site brochures and the name of the educational resource packet. These are excellent publications and should be periodically updated and reprinted.



Site brochure

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

The entire site is in need of interpretive signage that would enhance the historical understanding of the structures and educational appeal to visitors taking self-guided tours of the site. New interpretive signage is proposed for the site and would accompany a self-guided walking tour between buildings. A map near the parking area would identify the entire site, the connecting pedestrian path system, and the location of former buildings that made up the Rock Creek community. Another map could illustrate how the Oregon Trail and Kelton Road converged at the Rock Creek site. Also needed for the site, is a policy on monuments.

VISITOR CENTER AND HOUSE MUSEUM

Exhibits would include the history of the site and accompanying photographs. A time line would help illustrate the site's early role in transportation. Exhibits at the visitor center could include the life of Stricker Homesite, the Overland stage, a blacksmith shop, and what a thriving station was like in the 1860 and 1870s. Other early transportation exhibits used for special events could include a stagecoach and freight wagon carrying mining equipment. Plans call for

developing an exploratory hands-on collection of artifacts and information for children, both to use on the site and to be loaned to schools. This could become a traveling history-in-a-trunk program. While traveling to and from the site, audio cassette tapes or CDs, portraying the area's history, could be checked out or purchased at the Twin Falls Visitors Center and other locations. Other future interpretive options include a hand-held tape cassette recording to help guide a self-guided tour and “talking” stations, a pre-recorded narration activated by a button.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE PACKET FOR SCHOOL VISITS

An excellent teacher's manual for the site was prepared by ISHS in 1997. The educational resources packet contains pre-visit information, historical information, and lesson plan and activities, all designed to enhance student curriculum and make their visits a more educational experience. The educational resource is available in a bound 40-page packet or can be transmitted by e-mail. *Crossroads of History* should be reprinted by ISHS and made available to educators. This document is also available on the ISHS web site.

Currently schools must make reservations for tours at least two weeks in advance and tour groups must also complete a site use application. Groups must have one adult for every 10 students. The average time to visit the site is 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Suggested donation for schools and other educational groups is \$.50 per person. Bus parking is along the gravel driveway or behind the restrooms.

COLLECTIONS

The Friends of Stricker and ISHS should continue to secure suitable objects that will help interpret the history of the site. Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite must follow the collection management policies of the ISHS. One of the early interpretive tasks is to conduct an inventory of artifacts and photographs pertaining to the site. A few of the ISHS collections include ledgers of the Rock Creek Store from December 12, 1878, to February 15, 1880, and August 8, 1887, to November 10, 1889; Gladys Stricker's 1939 to 1944 record of farm operations, and oral history interviews with Gladys Stricker. Arrangements have been made for one item, Herman Stricker's safe, which occupied the store for many years, to be returned to the store by the Twin Falls Historical Museum. Oregon Trail journal

quotes regarding Rock Creek include: Isom Cranfill, July 25, 1847; Absoom B. Harden, August 4, 1847; James Ray, August 15, 1847, Dinwiddle, July 25, 1853; George Becham, 1853; Medorm Crawford, 1863.

HIGHWAY GUIDE SIGNS

A number of additional highway guide signs are recommended to assist the public in locating the site. Some find it hard to get to, but with improved signage it should be easy to locate. To overcome this perception of difficult access, directional signs and location maps are a top priority.

LOCAL GUIDE SIGNS

Local guide signs off County Road G-3 (Rock Creek Road) at the 3200 North Road intersection should be upgraded. These signs should have a brown background and a reflectorized white legend with six-inch letters, directional arrows, and be supplemented with the Oregon Trail National Historic Trail logo. Similarly, the sign at Clairborn Road 3900 East Road and 3200 North Road intersection should be upgraded. An existing concrete Idaho-shaped sign at the intersection Clairborn Road and U.S. 30 would be signed to Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite. This uniquely shaped sign assists those coming from Kimberly and Twin Falls.

To assist visitors returning to the highway it would be appropriate to install a “To 30” symbol sign with a north directional arrow at the G-3 and 3200 North Road intersection. Another opportunity to assist travelers and honor the donors would be to request a street name change from 3200 N. Road to Stricker Homesite Road.

ENTRANCE SIGN

Even when people do make the turn at 3200 North Road, some people drive past the site. This is especially true for those coming from Rock Creek Road, as the left-hand turn into the site is awkward and hard to see from a distance. An entrance sign, facing the traffic direction, should be constructed. The parking area should be identified.

INTERSTATE 84 GUIDE SIGNS

Once the site’s interpretive signs, entrance sign and directional signs have been installed, ISHS should request ITD to install guide signs for the site on I-84 at exit 182.

HANSEN TOURIST PARK

A small rest area park is proposed for the southwest corner of the intersection of U.S. 30 and G-3 in the center of Hansen. Developed by the City of Hansen, this existing field would provide travelers with picnic tables, restrooms, and interpretive information about the area. The small park would serve as gateway to Rock Creek Station and Magic Mountain, and would help orient visitors. Potential partners could include ITD, USFS, BLM and the ISHS.

Idaho Transportation Department’s historic marker, No. 342, Rock Creek Station, on Highway 50 at Hansen, and the 1937 Idaho-shaped monument are currently poorly located (milepost 227.3) and should be moved to the new park. The current location of these signs provide very little room to pull out and read the signs, as well as being located too close to the intersection. Interpretive signs about nearby South Hills and Magic Mountain could be added. Other interpretation could include the Hansen Bridge, which was at one time the highest suspension bridge in North America, and the story of the Snake River and how it was carved out of lava rock.

PROGRAMS

Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite should offer programs tailored to meet the needs of the public. Potential activities could include a lecture series, workshops, and a newsletter linking the site to the Magic Valley and Idaho. The Friends of Stricker is working on a resource library of particular interest to the facility. The cost of programs should be self-supporting or have a sponsor.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite could feature a number of special events each year that would reach a diverse range of audiences. The emphasis would be on having fun while learning history. Events could increase visitation, public awareness and appreciation for history. These events would allow exposure for the facility and generate revenue.

A Fourth of July ice cream social was held annually at the Stricker Homesite until 1917 and could be re-established. Other events could be added as staff, volunteers and funding allow. Each event could be funded by a specific sponsor. Ongoing events could include picnics, family and class reunions, weddings and receptions. Periodically, speakers would give talks and show slides. The opportunity exists to develop a signature event for the site that would celebrate Magic Valley's historic beginnings. Expanded events need to be linked to rehabilitating the Stricker Home so that adequate staffing and preparation areas are provided.

Potential events could include a living history day with hands-on activities for the public. Educational programming would be interactive and show visitors what life was like during the decades between 1863-1930. For example, the members of the Southern Idaho Draft Horse and Mule Association do bring their wagons, horses, and mules to the site and give rides. Likewise, a stagecoach could be on hand.

Other potential activities include quilting exhibition, western art show, musical program, antique roadshow, or activities for children. Potential events could include a wagon train re-enactment, or rally for car clubs, cyclists, or fun runs. A traveling trunk would be available for teachers before and after a visit. Another event could be a spring benefit fundraiser. Special site activities could include birding and botanical study.

One opportunity is to develop a summer theater with melodramas, potentially telling the story of the area. Partnerships with College of Southern Idaho's Drama Department could result in historic plays and re-enactments during the summer. A good play would be Mary Inman's "Miss Maudie," the story of a woman on a wagon train, an Idaho Humanities Council presentation.

SERVICES

Sunday hosts and tour guides have found that visitors came to the site expecting to be able to buy soda and snacks. Light snacks and drinks could be sold through the house museum gift shop or by vending machines. Other nearby services to support the site can be found at the new Rock Creek Store on Rock Creek Road. Another location is the Travelers' Oasis at I-84 and Exit 182, serving freeway travelers for over 20 years with a restaurant, gift shop and gas. Services are also available at Hansen, Kimberly, and Twin Falls.

MARKETING

A marketing plan should be refined to identify the level at which the historic resource will be promoted for visitation and education, and the specific marketing techniques to be employed in promotion of the site. Initial marketing strategies call for a special effort to increase visitation, public awareness, and appreciation for history. Key partners could include the Idaho Travel Council, Magic Valley Travel Association, and the Twin Falls and Kimberly Chambers of Commerce. Visitors should be targeted from heritage tourists, Oregon Trail seekers, travelers, senior citizens, and school students. Those visiting Three Island Crossing State Park and Milner Ruts should be encouraged to seek out Rock Creek Station. Spring and fall tours are typically times for school children to visit. Most marketing could occur by press releases, public service announcements, and feature stories. Likewise, the *Friends of Stricker News* and the *Twin Falls Times News* could help spread the word. Feature stories should be encouraged in regional and national publications. Periodically, local advertising could occur through the newspaper, radio and TV. Future marketing could target commercial bus tours to stop at the site.

NAME IDENTIFICATION AND MAPS

Marketing of this state-class cultural resource should be included in the overall tourism marketing plan for the state, region, and Twin Falls. A special effort should be undertaken to get Rock Creek Station on the official Idaho map and all other similar publications. Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite should be identified as an unseen site on the edge of Twin Falls maps via U.S. 30. ISHS should develop a logo depicting the site to provoke public awareness and as a superb marketing tool.

BROCHURE

Initially one- and two-page pamphlets were printed by the Friends to help tell the story. In 1995 ISHS printed 2000 copies of “Rock Creek Store and Stricker Ranch: Crossroads of History,” a green six-panel foldout brochure with more information. Researched and written by Kathy Hodges, it is an invaluable resource for visitors and students. The brochure is currently out of print, needs minor name corrections, and should be reprinted.



Rack card

RACK CARDS

ISHS printed 20,000 “Hit the Trail” rack cards in 1999. These 4-inch by 9-inch cards are currently being used in the regional visitor centers display racks to help inform travelers of the site, its location, summary of activities, phone, and address.

2004 TWIN FALLS CENTENNIAL-STRICKER ROSE

Improvements to the Stricker Home and site outlined in this master plan should be completed for the Twin Falls Centennial celebration in 2004. This 100th anniversary is a catalyst to celebrate the historic beginnings of the Magic Valley, which started at Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite. The Rock Creek Store (1865) is the oldest building in the Magic Valley, as is the Stricker Home (1900) the oldest home. Big Pink, the original Stricker rose from the site has been grown in quantity, and will be sold to the public to assist in fundraising for the centennial celebration. Planning for the centennial could include local support for improvements to the site, making it a showplace for area history during the 2004 celebration. The next step is for Twin Falls to officially recognize the site and make it a high priority centennial project.

SITE EXHIBIT AT SNAKE RIVER VISITOR CENTER

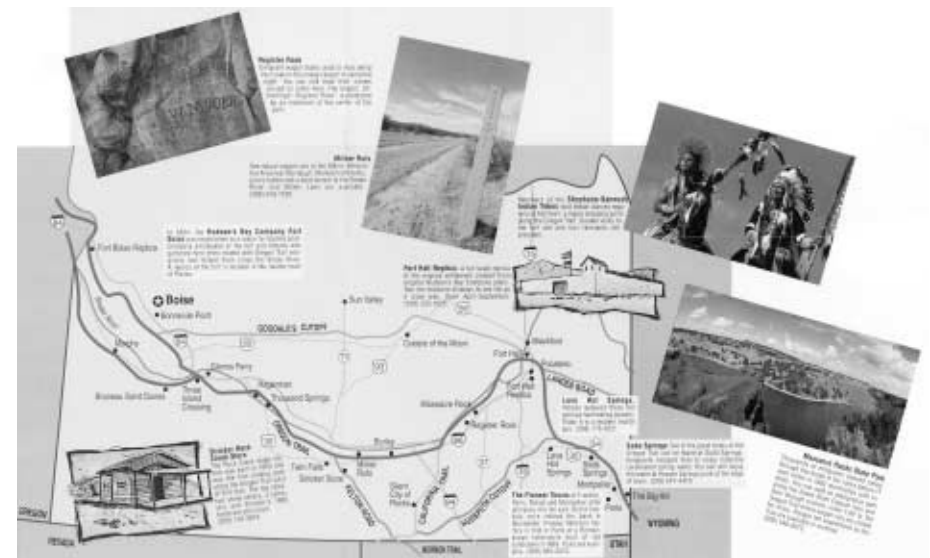
Another opportunity for marketing is to create a small exhibit or space about Rock Creek Station at the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce visitor center at the Snake River Canyon and U.S. 93. Directions would be available to reach the site as well as an audio cassette or CD about the site to rent or purchase.

LOCAL PROMOTION

Another marketing idea is to expand the relationship with nearby communities by making presentations about the site to area service clubs and schools, inviting local use of the site for meetings, events and workshops. Another idea is to provide a wagon or stagecoach promoting the site for Western Days held in downtown Twin Falls each June.

OREGON TRAIL

Interest in the Oregon Trail continues to expand with the recent opening of Oregon Trail centers at nearby Three Islands State Park and Montpelier. Rock Creek Station should be promoted as a place where you can experience the trail through the store, cellars, campgrounds, cemetery, and ruts. The site should be promoted as part of a series of Oregon Trail sites including Montpelier, Massacre Rocks, Milner Ruts, Rock Creek Station, Three Island Crossing and Baker City. The 1993 Idaho official map has a good insert map on the back side illustrating Oregon Trail sites and a color graphic of Rock Creek Store. This information should be reproduced to promote the Oregon Trail sites in Idaho.



1993 Idaho highway map identifying emigrant trails for the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial

ROCK CREEK STATION AND STRICKER HOMESITE PRODUCTS

A limited number of site products exist, including note cards of the store and house. Others are out of print, including cache envelopes and 8-inch by 10-inch prints depicting the Rock Creek Store, painted by Kimberly artist Gary Stone. A cloisonné clutch pin with the store image and a limited edition of Rock Creek Station wooden nickels are already collector's items. New products to sell and promote the site should be considered. A post card is a must. Other items could include ceramics, toys, folk art, publications, etc.

NEARBY TOURISM SITES

Visitors could be encouraged to visit other nearby sites as part of their visit to Rock Creek Station. One of the best is the Magic Mountain scenic area just south of the site. County Road G-3 enters the gorge between spectacular basalt spires and gradually ascends the drainage for 14 miles. Typical desert flora of sage, rabbitbrush, cottonwoods and juniper soon gives way to ponderosa, then lodge pole, and finally quaking aspen and subalpine fir at an elevation of 7,000 feet. The pavement ends at Magic Mountain Ski Area; however, during the summer one can drive 32 miles over dirt roads to the historic town of Oakley. This roadway should be considered for nomination as an Idaho Scenic Byway.

A spectacular view of the Snake River Canyon is provided from the Hansen Bridge overlook. Other sites include the ghost town of Springtown, a half-mile down the river from the Hansen Bridge. Starting in 1870 and lasting for six turbulent years, mud huts of the Chinese are still to be seen. Three miles north of the Hansen Bridge are the curious objects of the Clay Caves. Another spectacular and undeveloped site is Caldron Linn, two miles from Murtaugh. In 1811 the Wilson Price Hunt party abandoned its canoes on the Snake River at Caldron Linn. The House Museum could include an exhibit on these Astorians, including relics of traps and guns found from the overturned canoe and now in the possession of ISHS.

MANAGEMENT

Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite is owned by the State of Idaho and administered by the Historic Sites Division of the Idaho State Historical Society. The site is maintained in cooperation with the Friends of Stricker, a non-profit volunteer group of members.

Ongoing management of the site should follow an identified and consistent pattern. Primary administrative responsibility will be carried out by ISHS. Management should be localized with a full-time ISHS administrative-educational person and a caretaker. The Friends of Stricker would assist with educational programs, special events and fund raising.

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The role of the ISHS is to preserve, protect and interpret the site for better appreciation by the people of Idaho. ISHS should provide a comprehensive program of historic preservation to manage and preserve the site. Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite is an acknowledged part of ISHS operations and integrated into its budget. ISHS is overseen by a board of trustees and an executive director. The Historical Sites Division should promote the proper preservation and uses of the site. ISHS staff specialists in Archaeological Survey, Education Programs, Historic Preservation Office, Library/Historic Collections and Oral History should periodically assist the site. ISHS is authorized to promote cooperative management of the site through contractual agreements.

THE FRIENDS OF STRICKER, INC.

Established in December 1984, the Friends of Stricker formed as a non-profit organization solely to care for the Stricker Homesite. Its purpose is "to bring together persons interested in the restoration of the Stricker home, the historic Rock Creek Store, lava rock cellars and to maintain and preserve the same to honor the memory of Herman and Lucy Stricker." The Friends' board of directors worked to gain non-profit status, help manage the site, and to acquire monies to upgrade the site. Volunteer members carry on educational programs, give tours and

donate furnishings for the Stricker House and Summer House. Board members and volunteers are hosts for visitors on Sundays, April through October, and guides for school visitors. Other board members have donated their skills in woodworking and restoration to preserve the site's structures. Today the Friends have over 100 members. An annual meeting is held at the site each summer on the last Saturday in July. Annual dues are: individual \$5, family \$10, business \$50, and lifetime \$100. Memorial donations are encouraged and inscribed on a plaque at the site. The address is Friends of Striker, P.O. Box 2218 Twin Falls, 83303, and the phone (208) 424-4000.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A memorandum of understanding should be in place setting out guidelines for the relationship of the ISHS and the Friends of Stricker for management, preservation and operation of the site. ISHS should provide security and maintenance for the site and oversee the restoration or repair of the structures and improvements to the site. ISHS and the Friends should jointly carry on educational, interpretive, research, and publication programs. The Friends should assist ISHS in providing security and maintenance for the site. The Friends should welcome scheduled visitors, lead tours of the site, and keep the house museum open for visitors on a stated schedule. The Stricker House could provide offices with phone, computer, e-mail, fax, copier, file cabinets, and office furniture for the needs of both organizations.

SITE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT STAFF PERSON

Resources should be sought to hire an administrative/education person to help operate the site and oversee the educational programs at the site. During the prime visitor season the paid staff person could provide a friendly on-site presence for visitors. A paid staff person, answering to an administrator, would coordinate local operations and scheduling. The staff person could assist the Historic Sites Division in implementing the recommendations contained in this master plan. Part-time clerical, exhibit, and janitorial help could assist the staff.

CARETAKER

Resources should be sought to hire a live-in, paid, contractual caretaker, with landscaping and work skills to oversee maintenance of the site. The caretaker should be responsible for general maintenance, repair, grounds keeping, and security of the buildings and grounds. Other typical tasks would include electrical, plumbing, and cleaning rest rooms. The position would include fire prevention, trails upkeep, care for the lawn, and control of weeds along Rock Creek. The caretaker should also back up the staff and Friends in giving tours of the site and assisting at special events. The caretaker position should receive housing, utilities, and appropriate compensation. Periodic assistance could come through youth programs, civic clubs, volunteers and contracted projects. The position should be filled through an ISHS Caretaker Tenant Agreement, spelling out all tasks and conditions.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of an organization and help the site better serve the public. Under the direction of a volunteer coordinator, willing individuals would commit time and energy to a wide variety of projects. Potential assignments could include assisting office staff, helping with programs and events, giving tours, and working on the buildings and site. Adoption of the site (e.g., rockery, flower beds) would be encouraged by community groups. Student interns would be requested to assist at the site.

SITE USE PERMIT APPLICATION

A Site Use Permit Application (Request For Educational Tour) has been prepared and will be used by the permittee and ISHS to identify use, application date, rental fee, deposit, and insurance. The agreement includes use conditions such as use of licensed caterers, no breakable glass, no smoking in any building at the site, conditions of the site, etc. A modest \$125 fee is charged for the site use.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

The total cost to upgrade the site and its buildings to a state-class historic site is \$605,450. These costs are identified in the following tables:

ROCK CREEK/STRICKER GROUNDS

Entry sign & interpretive signage	\$11,000
Parking lot improvements	3,600
Directional signage	2,500
Fencing	5,000
Trail system	15,000
Site Improvements	4,000
Archaeology	25,000
Total	\$66,100

SITE ACQUISITIONS

Site A: Cemetery and Oregon Trail ruts	\$10,000
Site B: Rock Creek island and orchard	35,000
Site C: Caretakers house (bungalow house)	75,000
Total	\$120,000

ROCK CREEK STORE

Interpretive exhibits	\$8,000
Interpretive signage	6,000
Replace floor	2,500
Replace porch	1,000
Total	\$17,500

LOG BUILDING-BARN

Structure assessment	\$1,500
Roof, repair & replace sill logs	7,000
Interpretive signage	3,000
Total	\$11,500

DRY CELLAR

Interpretive signage	\$3,000
Fencing	250
Repair stairs, entrance and roof	800
Total	\$4,050

WET CELLAR

Interpretive signage	\$3,000
Fencing	250
Repair roof and entrance	650
Total	\$3,900

STAGE STATION SITE

Interpretive signage	\$3,000
Total	\$3,000

CHINA HOUSE SITE

Interpretive signage	\$3,000
Total	\$3,000

STRICKER HOUSE

Rehabilitate house-wheelchair ramp	\$128,700
Architect-construction drawings	9,000
Scrape and paint, repair trim	5,000
Interpretive signage	12,000
Interpretive exhibits	30,000
Total	\$184,700

SUMMER HOUSE

Interpretive signage	\$3,000
Total	\$3,000

GARAGE

Maintenance/paint	\$800
Total	\$800

RESTROOM

Replace vault and pad	\$10,000
Move existing structure	1,000
Total	\$11,000

PIONEER CEMETERY

Access road, parking/overnight improvements	\$50,000
Rest room and water	43,500
Interpretive signage	3,000
Fencing	1,900
Total	\$98,400

EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Printing <i>Crossroads of History</i> six-fold brochure	\$ 5,000
Printing <i>Crossroads of History</i> Educational Resource	2,000
Office equipment and furniture	5,000
Events & marketing	3,500
Repairs	7,000
Caretaker position (annual)	12,000
Education resource staff (annual)	44,000
Total	\$78,500

GRAND TOTAL **\$605,450**

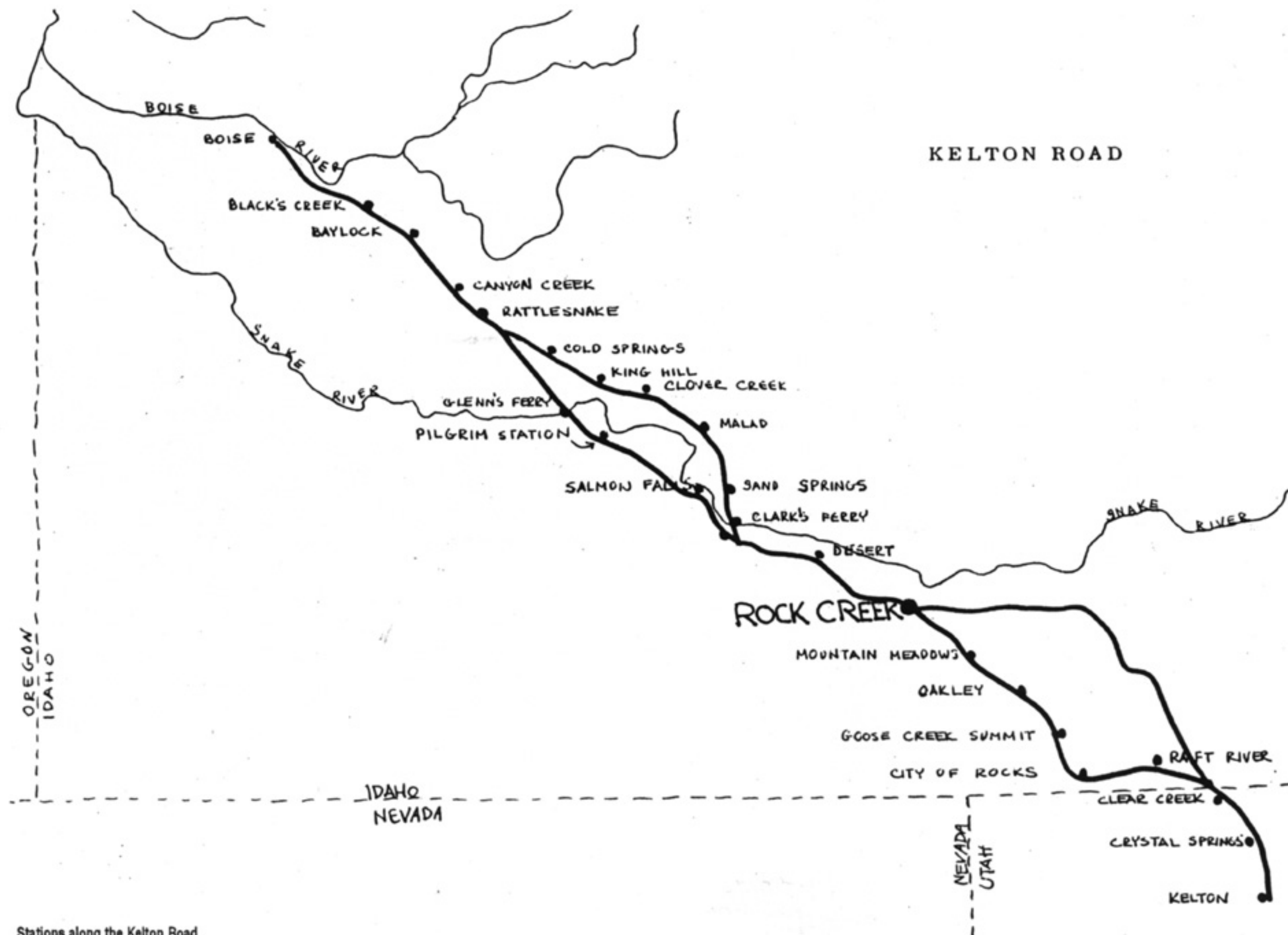
FUNDING

Rock Creek Station has excellent potential for receiving private and public donations because it is a visible and achievable community project and many donors find educational projects very appealing. A broadly-based fundraising campaign should solicit corporations, businesses, and individuals. Having this master plan in place should help in the fundraising process of approaching community groups, granting organizations, and corporations for donations. Funding should also be sought from ITD's enhancement fund, the legislature and federal appropriations. Funding should be requested from the Rural Development Fund and the Idaho Department of Commerce. Funds for interpretive information should be sought from the Idaho Humanities Council, USFS and BLM. BLM is linked to the Oregon Trail site by its Milner Ruts site. Other sources include the Idaho Community Foundation, Steel Reece Foundation, and the J. A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. Contributions should be recognized appropriately. Periodic financial support would be sought to develop unique programs in education. Funding for the buildings should be requested from the Idaho Heritage Trust. Community groups and corporations could pay for refinishing and furnishing rooms. Other income sources could come from site rental for picnics, family reunions, weddings and receptions. A suggested donation to enter the house museum and a donation box would further support the facility.

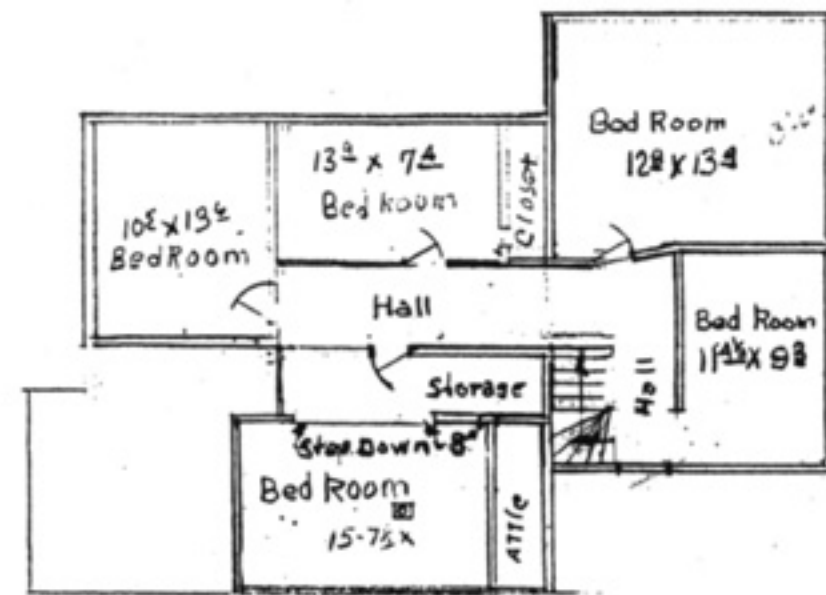
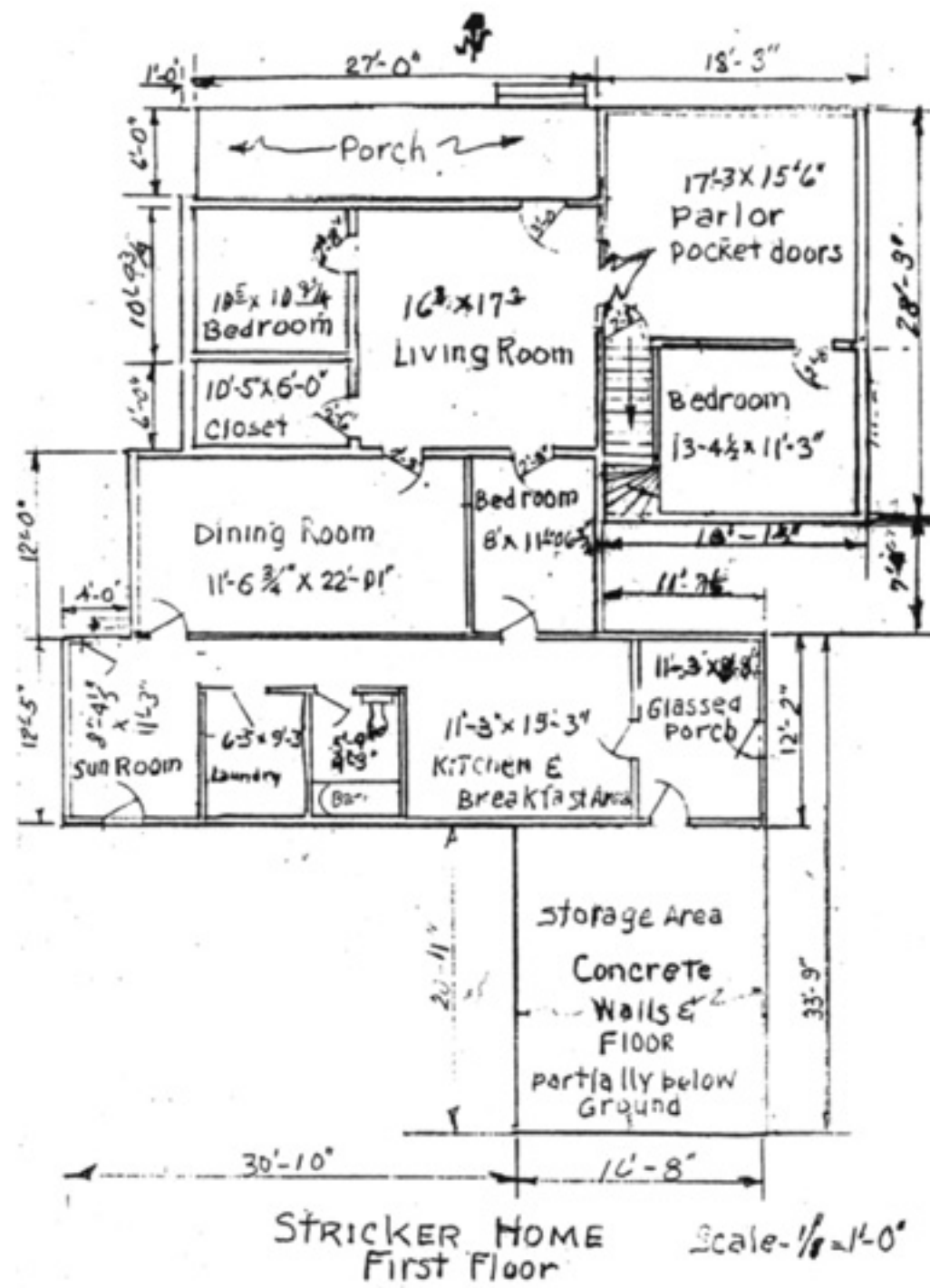
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reprint six-panel brochure prepared by ISHS in 1995 with correct title. Reprint the Educational Resources Packets for school and educational groups, correcting title to Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite. Include both the ISHS logo and Oregon Trail symbol.
- Work with ITD to have the name Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite placed on the Idaho State official map as well as the name and map identification on all other regional and local visitor publications.
- Install directional signs for 3200 North Road and entry sign for site.
- Seek funding to hire full-time staff person to administer the site and provide educational programming.
- Extend invitation to other groups to utilize the facility.
- Re-grade restroom site or relocate.
- Stabilize, repair and roof the Log Building-Barn.
- Install interpretive signage for structures and site.
- Initiate site improvements: grading near buildings, trail construction, and new fences.
- Rehabilitate Stricker Home. This would honor the memory of Herman and Lucy G. Stricker and be a standard bearer for the agricultural history of the Magic Valley's founding families for the 2004 Twin Falls Centennial.
- Establish visitor center and house museum in Stricker Home. Prepare interpretive exhibits, signage, office space and resource room.
- Site acquisition: When appropriate the state should seek to acquire additional adjacent land(s) identified in the master plan as essential to maintaining and developing the integrity of the site to its fullest potential.
- Restore flow of water in Rock Creek
- Expand archaeology work on the site.
- Continue research on transportation, ranching, and agriculture in the development of the Magic Valley. (For example, just one mile south of the site is the Sparks Harrell Cattle Company, now the Shoesole Ranch.)
- Re-establish natural ground covers and shrubs.
- Develop public relations material and maintain public and media relations.
- Plan and promote special events and cultural programming.

APPENDIX



Stations along the Kelton Road



Second Floor

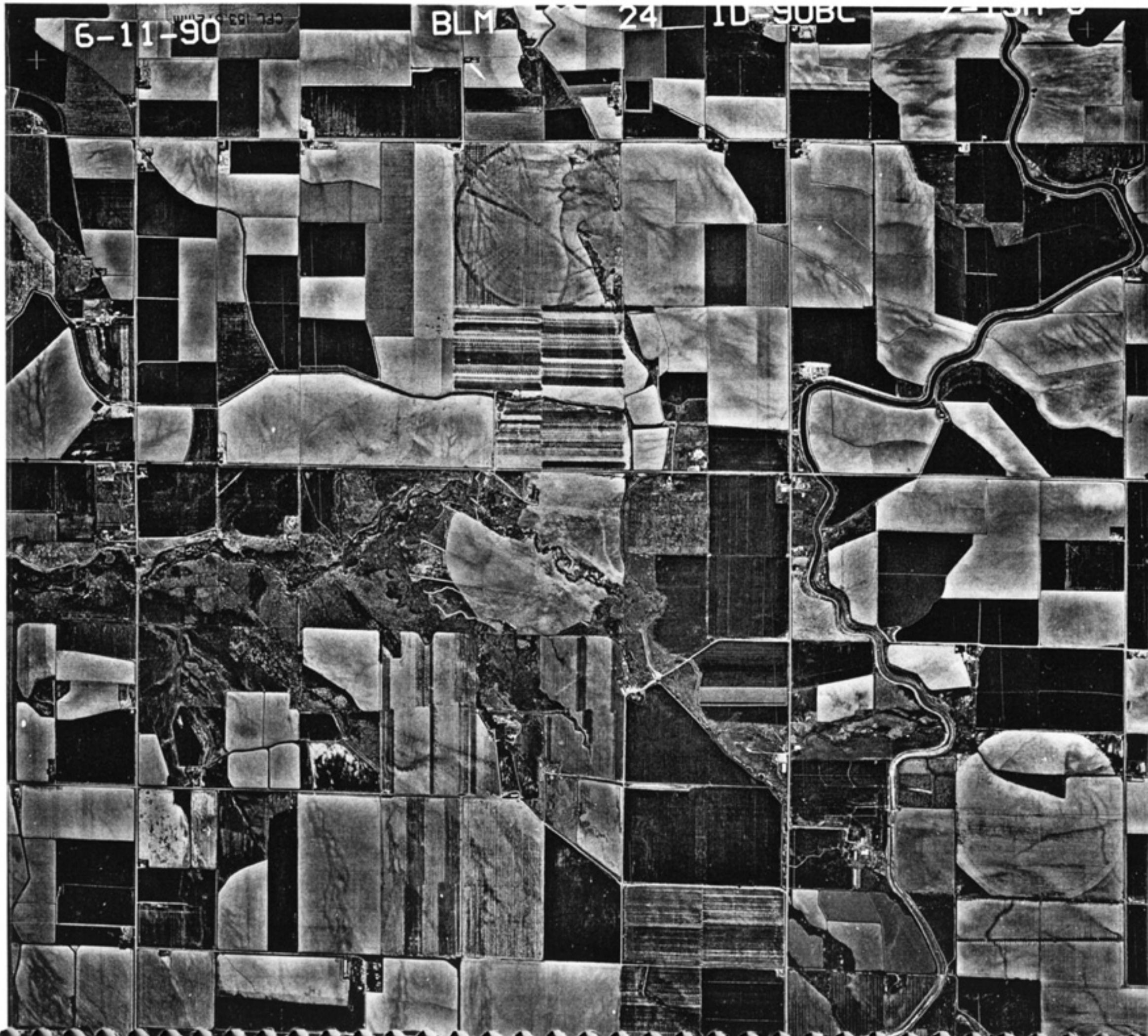
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TIME LINE

1805-1806: Lewis and Clark cross what is now north Idaho.

August 28, 1812: A party of explorers and fur traders, heading eastward from the Columbia River under the leadership of Robert Stuart, camp on Rock Creek several miles downstream from the Stricker site.

1830: Hudson's Bay Company employees trap a beaver on Rock Creek.

1832: Captain Bonneville brings the first wagon to what is now Idaho and take it through South Pass as far as Soda Springs.

July 14, 1834: Captain Nathaniel Wyeth selects site for Fort Hall.

August 1834: Hudson's Bay Company establishes Fort Boise.

September 29, 1843: John Fremont's expedition party camps on the banks of Rock Creek.

1851: After emigrants argue with Shoshone-Bannock over a camping spot at Rock Creek and force them to leave, Shoshone-Bannock respond by counterattacking and injuring three emigrants. One emigrant dies from his injuries.

Fall 1860: Gold is discovered on Orofino Creek by E.D. Pierce in north Idaho, beginning a gold rush.

1861: Ben Holladay becomes America's stagecoach king.

August 1862: Gold discovered in the Boise Basin.

Spring 1863: Miners rush to the Boise Basin. New population in this area creates a demand for freight and mail service. William Purvine, John T. Heard, and Charles N. Teeter send freighters out from Salt Lake to Boise, opening a new route which, John Haily later uses as a stage road between Boise and Kenton, Utah.

1864: Ben Holladay awarded U.S. Mail contract from Salt Lake City to Walla Walla. On March 21, Holladay sends agent out to choose route for new stage road and the stations that would service it. Rock Creek is chosen as a "home station" on the line.

August 1864: First Holladay stage arrives at Rock Creek Station.

1865: Rapid growth of the Boise region worsens relations between whites and Native Americans. Soldiers are dispatched to protect the overland road near Salmon Falls and Rock Creek.

1865: James Bascom builds log store and adjoining storage cellar near Rock Creek home station.

1869: Gold is discovered in the Snake River Canyon below the Shoshone Falls.

June 20, 1870: Herman Stricker comes to Springtown with his commissary wagon and opens a store.

1870s: Cattle herds in southern Idaho increase after the railroad is built.

June 9, 1871: Rock Creek post office established. Commodore Jackson is first postmaster.

September 13, 1872: Rock Creek post office is discontinued.

November 17, 1874: Rock Creek post office is re-established with James Bascom as postmaster.

August 8, 1875: Charles Walgamott, age 19, arrives at Rock Creek Station.

Fall 1876: Herman Stricker and John Botzet buy Rock Creek store and contents, a stable and contents, and a dwelling house.

1877: Herman Striker becomes postmaster, serving for next 22 years.

1878: Bannock War due to encroachment of white men on Camas Prairie lands.

1879: Lucy Walgamott comes to visit her sister Irene Trotter and brother Charles Walgamott at Rock Creek Station.

1881: Herman Stricker and John Botzet file a water claim for 300 inches of Rock Creek water.

TIME LINE (continued)

October 1, 1882: Lucy Walgamott marries Herman Stricker.

1883: Oregon Short Line is built on other side of Snake River Canyon. Rock Creek loses its organized transportation lines.

1884: Herman Stricker completes a ditch for irrigation and mining. Stricker appropriates 500 inches of Rock Creek water. John Botzet deeds his interest to Striker. I.B. Perrine comes to Idaho and winters a heard of cows on the Blue Lakes, near current Twin Falls.

1897: Rock Creek store closes. Herman Stricker goes to farming full-time.

April 4, 1899: Mary Robinson is appointed postmistress and Rock Creek post office is moved to Robinson residence 2 miles upstream from Stricker site at the (then) Rock Creek town location.

March 9, 1900: Log home of Striker family burns down.

1900-1901: New Stricker home is built. The home is used as a hotel for those working on the Twin Falls Canal system.

June 4, 1904: Stricker Area post office established with Henry Jones as postmaster. Post office is located at his residence.

1905: Stricker Area Post Office is move to Striker site with Bernard Striker as Postmaster.

1910: Stricker Area Post Office closes.

1920: Herman Stricker dies.

1949: Lucy Walgamott Stricker dies.

1984: The Idaho State Historical Society acquires the Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite. Friends of Stricker are formed.